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PART LIV.

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

103

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part LIV.

No. 1.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 1.)

(No. 296.)

My Lord, *Athens, September* 22, 1880.

PUBLIC opinion here appears to be at this moment rather inclining to the idea that the large military *levées* now being made had better be actively employed at once in taking possession of the provinces which it is considered the Great Powers have decided should be ceded by the Porte to Greece.

It is said that the army, on the footing which is now contemplated by the Government, if kept up for any considerable time, would be the ruin of the country financially, and that it would be better at once, although incompletely prepared for offensive action, to attempt to occupy Thessaly and Epirus, trusting to the Great Powers to assist Greece actively in the enterprise by material as well as moral aid, it being expected at all events that they will preserve her from the consequences which would certainly result from an attack of Greece, if unaided, upon Turkey. This feeling has become more general since the fleets of the Great Powers have appeared on the Albanian coast, as it is expected that when the business which called them there is finished they will act in the same manner in support of Greek interests.

I spoke to-day to M. Tricoupi on this subject, and he told me that, although the military preparations were proceeding satisfactorily, the country was not yet ready to act, and that at all events the Government was determined to take no hostile measures until their doing so was approved by the Great Powers.

From his Excellency's remarks, however, I inferred that he shared entirely the view, that when the united squadrons had done their work at Dulcigno they would do something in support of the Greek claims, and that then the time, on the part of this country, for action, would have arrived.

The organ of M. Coumoundouros, the leader of the opposition, the "Telegraphos," is opposed to immediate action, and says in an article published to-day, that the action of Greece must begin after the arrival of the King and the meeting of the Chambers, "in order that the nation might have time to redress the blunders of M. Tricoupi's Government."

As M. Coumoundouros and his party fully expect to overthrow M. Tricoupi as soon as the Chamber meets, this may be taken to mean that as he hopes soon himself to be called to form a Government, he desires to postpone aggressive action until he is in power, as, if war should break out while M. Tricoupi is at the head of the Government, that gentleman's tenure of office would be indefinitely prolonged, as it would not be possible for the opposition to act against him if the country was involved in hostilities, and to his rival would accrue the honour and glory of having brought about the cession of the coveted territory.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 2.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 274. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 1, 1880.*

THE attitude of Austria may most seriously compromise the effect of the pressure which we have at last brought the Porte to feel.

Austrian Ambassador wanted to persuade us yesterday to make another communication to the Porte for the surrender of Dulcigno. After our last note rejecting the conditions of the Porte categorically, a fresh and spontaneous approach to the Porte just as the Montenegrins hesitate to advance would have been a fatal sign of weakness.

The Austrian Ambassador showed his hand by a broad hint that, if the other Powers hesitated to adopt the milder steps which he was instructed to recommend, we must not be surprised if Austria refused to follow when stronger ones were proposed.

Apparently the Austrian Government, so soon as their advice is not followed, will seek in such circumstance a justification for retiring.

Still, on the other hand, if Austria is allowed to lead, Europe will not carry her demands.

No. 3.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 275.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 1, 1880.*

AUSTRIAN Ambassador's instructions contain a passage under which an indication would be given to the Porte that the Powers might content themselves with Riza Pasha withdrawing his troops behind the Boyana instead of surrendering Dulcigno, but your Lordship's instructions to me do not contemplate that point, except very indirectly, in relation to demand for explanation as to Riza Pasha's instructions.

The Powers have hitherto rigorously insisted that the Porte must not evacuate, but surrender (in French "remettre"). It is a serious thing to compromise this point. Probably we shall have to agree to-day to a passage dealing more or less with this question, in which case I must interpret your Lordship's telegrams to the best of my ability, and act according to circumstances and the attitude of my colleagues. But if Russian Ambassador has to ask for instructions, a telegram from your Lordship would still reach me in time.

No. 4.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 276.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 1, 1880.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 607, French Ambassador had told me he should telegraph full text.

I now learn that he only telegraphed preamble and conclusion, which were comparatively new to his Government, whereas the part about the conditions was practically known to them as being in accordance with his instructions.

No. 5.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 277.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 1, 1880.*

WITH reference to instructions to grant Porte till Sunday, no such direct demand was made by Under-Secretary; but, in any case, the spirit of your Lordship's telegram No. 578 would have prevented me from acceding to any demands for delay without instructions.

Under-Secretary saw German Ambassador on the 28th ultimo, when there were five days till Sunday.

If, at meeting summoned to-day to consider and act on Austrian Ambassador's proposals, all the Ambassadors have instructions to agree, the Porte can nevertheless not receive communication till this evening, obtaining, accordingly, only one or two days' delay. This will occur at a moment when Porte perfectly knows that the hesitation of the Prince has itself momentarily suspended the demonstration, and thus the concession will be regarded as hollow. The step will, as Baron Haymerle observes, not cause appreciable delay, but it will probably have very sensible effect on the attitude of the Porte, as a sign that the Powers, in view of the difficulties which have arisen, wish to return to ways of conciliation. I think it doubtful whether Russian Ambassador will have authority to join in admitting delay.

No. 6.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) *Gravosa, October 1, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's telegrams Nos. 19 and 20.

Sir H. Elliot's telegram No. 16 correctly quotes the letter from Riza Pasha, but I cannot see the distinction drawn by Baron Haymerle. It would be a mere matter of course that if Riza Pasha received orders to hand over the Dulcigno district he would cease officially to oppose the entry of the Montenegrins.

Neither in the Admiral's telegram nor in mine to your Lordship was the term "declaration of war" used; that expression occurs only in an identic telegram drawn up by a Conference of Admirals.

Your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 18, 21, and 22 also received, and have been communicated to the Admiral.

Please address all telegrams leaving England after Sunday next, the 3rd instant, to Her Majesty's ship "Helicon," at [group omitted].

The fleet leaves by detachments for Gulf of Cattaro, commencing to-day.

No. 7.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 102.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 1, 1880.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs tells me that German Government fully agrees with Austrian Government, and have sent instructions accordingly to Count Hatzfeldt to support Austrian propositions in concert with his colleagues.

No. 8.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1.)

(No. 113.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October 1, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 112 of yesterday.

I have come to Cettinjé, having placed myself completely at the disposal of the Admiral, and after he had concurred with me that I should be of more service here.

Probably the Admiral finds Captain Sale's assistance sufficient.

(Not repeated to Therapia.)

No. 9.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 688.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 1, 1880.*

I TOLD Austrian Chargé d'Affaires to-day that Her Majesty's Government would send instructions to Mr. Goschen substantially similar to those given by Baron Haymerle, as reported in your telegram No. 169 of the 29th ultimo.

At the same time, I remarked that in thus continuing diplomatic pressure on the

Porte, I could not but foresee that the time was approaching when notes and despatches would cease to have any effect.

On more than one occasion Austria had, in common with other Powers, insisted upon the European demands being met, and warned Turkey of the danger of refusal. We had on this occasion declared that pressure must be applied. What pressure did the Austrian Government think could be applied if the Sultan failed to execute his promise of settlement on the 3rd?

It appeared to me that in that case local measures at Dulcigno would soon become insufficient, and nothing would be left except to open wider issues, and to exercise pressure in a more extensive field.

Speak to Austrian Government in the same sense.

No. 10.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 622.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 1, 1880.

YOUR telegram No. 275 of to-day.

Her Majesty's Government would be glad if the stricter form for surrender of Dulcigno is retained in communications to the Porte, but you should do what would secure concerted action.

No. 11.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 623.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 1, 1880.

YOUR telegram No. 277 of to-day.

Her Majesty's Government concur in your reasons for not mentioning the delay, as it has now practically been given.

As to last sentence of your telegram, the Russian Government agree that delay was unavoidable; see Mr. Plunkett's telegram No. 183, repeated to you.

No. 12.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1, 1 P.M.)

(No. 109.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October* 1, 1880, 11·5 A.M.

IF your Lordship has not already instructed Mr. Macdonell to communicate to Italian Government information in my telegram No. 108, French Minister for Foreign Affairs would rather communicate it himself to Italian Ambassador when arrangements are completed.

No. 13.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 521.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 1, 1880, 4·45 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 109 has been repeated to Rome.

Will let you know if it reached in time to prevent Macdonell making communication to Italian Government.

No. 14.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 678.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 1, 1880, 4·45 P.M.

LET me know whether my telegram No. 671 reached you in time to prevent communication through you to Italian Government of French conciliatory intentions respecting Tunis.

No. 15.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 751.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 1, 1880, 5 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 183 of the 30th September.

For views of Her Majesty's Government, see my telegrams to Mr. Goschen Nos. 605 and 611 of yesterday, repeated to you in my telegrams Nos. 742 and 746.

No. 16.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 186.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 1, 1880, 1·50 P.M.

AN apparently semi-official article in the "Agence Russe" of to-day defends action of Prince of Montenegro in declining to take steps which might involve him in war with Turkey, and expresses a hope that matters will still come right, in consequence of the harmony which continues to reign among the Powers.

No. 17.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1, 9 P.M.)

(No. 187. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 1, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

REFERENCE to your telegram No. 745.

I happened to be with the Austrian Ambassador yesterday when he received telegr instructing him to shape his language according to three points mentioned in Sir H. Elliot's telegram No. 162.

The first point was put stronger than Baron Haymerle appears to have put it to Sir H. Elliot.

Baron Haymerle says to Count Kálnoky that his main object is to prevent the "great mess" (*sic*) [confusion*] which exists at Dulcigno extending to the relations of the Powers among each other.

Baron Haymerle insists on absolute necessity of avoiding all risk of war with Turkey.

No. 18.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 1, 11 P.M.)

(No. 114.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October* 1, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

PRINCE NICHOLAS has requested my colleagues and me to inform our respective Governments of the critical position of Montenegro through the prolonged maintenance under arms of a large body of men.

The season for the autumnal sowings is rapidly passing away, and the harvesting of the Indian corn is being unduly delayed, whilst the men under arms are exempted from taxation.

* This the original German word.

His Highness consequently earnestly hopes that on no plea whatever the delay now solicited by the Porte will be extended beyond the 3rd instant.

(Sent to Admiral and Constantinople.)

No. 19.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 536.)

Foreign Office, October 1, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration your despatch No. 362 of the 17th ultimo, inclosing a copy of the collective note upon the Montenegrin frontier question in the form in which it was presented to the Porte on the 16th instant, and I have to acquaint you that they approve its terms and your Excellency's proceedings with regard to the insertion, at the instance of the Russian Ambassador, of the reservation made by the Emperor of Russia as to the Prince of Montenegro resuming his claim on Dinosi in the event of the cession of Dulcigno not being immediately carried out.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 20.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 537.)

Foreign Office, October 1, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 259 of the 27th ultimo, informing me that at a meeting of the Representatives of the Powers it had been determined to immediately present to the Porte a collective reply to its last note on the Montenegrin frontier question, stating the decisions of the Powers with regard to the conditions put forward by the Turkish Government to its surrender of Dulcigno, and throwing on it all the responsibility of the consequences.

I have to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve the course which it is intended to adopt.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 21.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 539. Extender.)

Foreign Office, October 1, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 275 of to-day's date, in which you state that the instructions sent by the Austro-Hungarian Government to your Austrian colleague contain a passage from which the Porte might infer that an evacuation of Dulcigno, viz., the withdrawal of the Turkish troops behind the Boyana, and not the actual surrender of the place to Montenegro, might satisfy the demands of the Powers.

I have now to state to you with reference to this matter, that Her Majesty's Government would be glad if the stricter form for the surrender of Dulcigno were retained in any communication the Ambassadors of the Great Powers may address to the Porte, but they are of opinion that in any case you should adopt the course which will secure concerted action among the Ambassadors.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 22.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 540. Extender.)

Foreign Office, October 1, 1880.

Sir,

I RECEIVED your Excellency's telegram No. 277 of to-day's date, stating that, in your Excellency's opinion, it would not be expedient to inform the Sultan that Her Majesty's Government were willing to grant a further extension of time for carrying out the cession of Dulcigno, especially as the period mentioned by the Porte has already been practically acceded to, and, in reply, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government entirely concur in your reasons for not mentioning the question of the delay to the Ottoman Government.

With regard, however, to the last paragraph of your Excellency's telegram, saying that you thought it doubtful whether the Russian Ambassador would have authority to join in admitting any delay, I have to draw your Excellency's attention to Mr. Plunkett's telegram No. 183, repeated to you in my telegram No. 618 of the 1st instant, in which the Russian Government are reported to have agreed that the delay in question was unavoidable.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 23.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 543.)

Foreign Office, October 1, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 358 of the 14th ultimo, and I approve your having remonstrated against the expulsion from Janina of the two individuals whom Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney had reported to have been visited with that punishment for having rendered services to Captain Sale.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 24.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 544.)

Foreign Office, October 1, 1880.

Sir,

AS your Excellency is aware, it was agreed that the formal sanction of the Powers to the acts elaborated by the various Boundary Commissions instituted under the Treaty of Berlin should be recorded by an exchange of notes. Owing to the Porte not having as yet thus notified its adhesion to these acts, delay has been caused in carrying out the arrangements with regard to the frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria in the vicinity of Silistria, as until the formal concert of the Turkish Government is announced, the necessary communications cannot be made to the States directly interested in the frontier questions.

I should be glad if your Excellency would call the attention of the Porte to the matter, and urge them to notify their adhesion without further delay.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 25.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 499. Extender.)

Foreign Office, October 1, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 183 of the 30th ultimo, in which you inform me that M. de Jomini has stated that the Russian Government are waiting to hear what course Her Majesty's Government propose to adopt in order to insure a satisfactory solution of the difficulty which has arisen in connection with the question of the cession

of Dulcigno, and I have to point out to you that the views of Her Majesty's Government on this subject are fully set forth in my telegrams Nos. 605 and 611 of the 30th ultimo to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, which were repeated to you in my telegrams Nos. 742 and 746 of the 30th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 26.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 632. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 1, 1880.*

THE German Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and pressed me as to the view taken by Her Majesty's Government of the course to be pursued in case the answer from the Porte to our last representation on the Montenegrin question proved dilatory or unsatisfactory.

I repeated what I had stated yesterday. I told him the matter was grave. The question had been changed by the announcement of Riza Pasha. It amounted now to this, that not only Turkey refused to help to carry out the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin, but that she threatened to oppose by force the execution of one of those conditions; that we might, if we chose to do so, consider this a *casus belli*. But we were desirous to maintain the concert of the Powers to avoid war, but we thought it impossible for the Powers, after the position they had taken up, to allow themselves to succumb entirely before the obstinate opposition of Turkey. I said that I had received from your Excellency the same answer as he, Count Münster, had given to me as regards the views of the German Government; that I quite understood Prince Bismarck's reticence; that it was far from my wish to induce him to make any proposal; but that his opinion would be of great value at this moment.

Count Münster observed that it was not likely that we should get any opinion from the other Powers if we did not take the initiative in stating ours.

I replied that Germany was acting very much like Austria, but Austria and the other Powers had frequently said that they insisted upon the Turks carrying out the demands which had been made; that the last time Baron Haymerle spoke to Sir Henry Elliot on the subject, he told him that the object must be obtained by pressure upon the Porte. But what was that pressure to be? It could hardly be the mere continuance of despatches, which system was already used up.

Count Münster agreed to this view. But he said that the danger of going to Constantinople was that it might, and probably would, end in the destruction of the Empire with its concomitant complications and difficulties. I agreed that there was this risk; but was there any chance of the present state of things preserving the Empire?

It had always struck me that the opinion of Germany was more decided than that of this country that the dissolution of the Turkish Empire was imminent. It could not be held together without some change. But I thought a demonstration at Constantinople was very undesirable, unless it was absolutely forced upon us; this was the opinion of Mr. Gladstone and my colleagues; but what were the means of compulsion which it would be wise to employ? Count Münster asked whether we could force the Dardanelles. I told him that it was the unanimous opinion of the naval men whom we had consulted that it was perfectly practicable.

I asked him, with regard to the local question of the Montenegrin frontier, whether any plan would be possible, such as that the Austrians should guarantee the frontier of Montenegro while some ship force, or even troops, of which other Powers would not be jealous, were landed. Whether he thought the Austrian Government would consent. His Excellency said he could not give an opinion, but he thought Montenegro would not like an Austrian occupation. I asked him whether he thought Russia would object to such an Austrian protection; Count Münster said he thought it probable.

I said that there were other modes of material pressure than those of actual war. Reprisals, or the seizure, as a material guarantee, of some place which would be inconvenient to the Porte, without being likely to excite the populations, the extension of the naval demonstration to places which would be useful for the settlement of the Greek frontier; any of these undertaken by the combined Powers would have an effect. I added that we should not shrink from responsibility in applying pressure, but we wished

it to be done in the most judicious way, and, as a matter of course, by a combination of the Powers.

I stated to Count Münster that I was making no proposal, but merely wished to put before the Chancellor various suggestions which had been considered as substitutes for that which, perhaps, was the most efficacious, viz., a demonstration at Constantinople, but which might be accompanied by grave consequences.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 27.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 642. Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 1, 1880.*

I INCLOSE herewith, for your Excellency's confidential information, copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin, giving the substance of a conversation I had this afternoon with the German Ambassador.*

I saw the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires immediately afterwards, and spoke to him very much in the same strain as to the various methods in which pressure could be brought to bear upon the Porte for the settlement of the outstanding questions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 28.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 643. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 1, 1880.*

I TOLD the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires to-day that Her Majesty's Government would send instructions to Mr. Goschen substantially similar to those sent by telegraph to Baron Calice by Baron Haymerle, as reported in your telegram No. 161 of the 29th ultimo.

At the same time, I remarked to M. de Hengelmüller that in thus continuing to exercise diplomatic pressure on the Porte I could not but foresee that the time was fast approaching when notes and despatches would cease to have any effect.

I observed that Austria had more than once, in common with the other Great Powers, insisted upon the European demands being met, and had warned Turkey of the danger of refusal, and had on this occasion declared that pressure must be applied. I asked what pressure the Austrian Government thought could be applied if the Sultan failed to execute his promise to settle definitively the Montenegrin question by the 3rd instant. I added that it appeared to me that if the Sultan again broke faith local measures at Dulcigno would soon become insufficient, and nothing would be left except to open up wider issues, and to exercise pressure on a more extensive field.

I have to request your Excellency to speak to the Austro-Hungarian Government in the above sense.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 29.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 1310.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 1, 1880.*

AS Lord Lyons is about to return to his post as Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, I have much pleasure in conveying to you the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government of the able manner in which you have conducted the business of Her Majesty's Embassy during the difficult times you have lately gone through.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 26.

No. 30.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 2.*)

(No. 310. Political.)

Scutari, September 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Riza Pasha called on me this afternoon to beg me to assist him to put a stop to the intrigues of Signor Zerboni, the Italian Consul, and which, the General assured me, were now seriously impeding his efforts to induce the inhabitants of Dulcigno to submit to the transfer of their town and district to Montenegro.

I replied that the accusation he was making against my colleague was a most serious one, and that I did not see well what it could end in if he was unable to substantiate it.

Riza Pasha said he had no other proofs of M. Zerboni's proceedings than the reports of his secret agents, and the language held by the Dulcigniotes. These were somewhat supported by what the Consul had said to him when he first arrived here; and then the Pasha repeated to me the statement which has already reached your Lordship about M. Zerboni's suggestion that the Albanian-Montenegrin question should be made to drag on until winter.

Riza Pasha added that he had received information of a messenger having been dispatched by M. Zerboni to Dulcigno, and who returned this morning from that place with two of its leading inhabitants. These persons had not been to M. Zerboni's house, but he knew they were in communication with the Consul, who was assisting them to draw up a protest against the annexation of Dulcigno to Montenegro for communication to the Powers.

The General hoped to prevent this document coming to maturity, but unless he was supported by me he feared Italian intrigues would upset the favourable termination of an affair which was surrounded with quite enough local difficulties not to require additions from an extraneous quarter.

I finally told the Pasha that, although I did not exactly understand his suspicions, and even almost disbelieved in there being any *bonâ fide* foundation for them, I felt confident I might promise him that the Italian Government would not fail to immediately place beyond doubt that it has no other object than to mark its perfect accord with the action which all the Powers are now pursuing in the Albano-Montenegrin question by ordering Signor Zerboni to dissipate the rumours which have been circulated as to his proceedings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 31.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 2.*)

(No. 312. Political.)

Scutari, September 16, 1880.

My Lord,

I CALLED upon Riza Pasha this morning to inquire as to the progress of his endeavours to secure the peaceable surrender of Dulcigno, and he replied that he felt confident of success if the action of the Powers did not come too quickly, and thus mar all the well-considered combinations of his plan of pacification and persuasion with the Albanians.

He explained that he had now in his possession assurances from every district in North and North-east Albania except the town of Scutari; that not a man would move to interfere with the Sultan's wishes as regards Dulcigno. In proof of this, he pointed out to the entire withdrawal of the volunteers who had arrived from Prisrend and Kukkandelen.

His present object was to make the Scutarines acquainted with the decision of their fellow-countrymen, and thus to get them also to range themselves on the side of the Government. The General believed he might say that this might be expected to happen almost immediately, and that then the only remaining difficulty to surmount would be the Dulcigniotes themselves. Signs of their hesitation, in a favourable sense, were already apparent, and the Pasha congratulated himself on having nipped in the bud the petition which he had told me Signor Zerboni had advised to be drawn up.

But, Riza Pasha repeated, all these favourable symptoms would quickly disappear if it was true that the combined fleet was starting for Dulcigno.

I said that I had no knowledge of Sir Beauchamp Seymour having yet moved from Ragusa.

The General hereupon assured me that, upon the faith of all he holds most sacred—his religion and the lives of his children—the peaceable surrender of Dulcigno would take place, but that his plans must not be hurried. He did not mean to thus put off the matter indefinitely, for it might become practicable from one moment to another, and, anyhow, he would not plead for a longer delay than six days from the present time.

I told the General I could only advise him to hurry whatever he was doing, for, although I would telegraph to your Lordship what he had said, still I could hold out no hope to him that Sir Beauchamp Seymour's action would be suspended for a single moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 32.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 2.*)

(No. 314. Political.)

Scutari, September 16, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD hardly returned from my visit this morning to Riza Pasha, during which he stated to me that he had persuaded the Dulcigniotes to abandon their idea of presenting a protest against their transfer to Montenegro, when the paper, of which the inclosed is a translation, was received by me.

I desired the person who had delivered the document to be brought before me. He was a Dulcigniote master mariner, and spoke Italian very well.

I asked him if he was aware of the contents of the letter he had conveyed to me, and he replied in the affirmative. I told him it contained a request for an answer from Her Majesty's Government, and I wished him to inform his fellow-townsmen that I thought it probable, although I would forward their writing to your Lordship, that none could be given beyond what I was already in a position to supply them with.

I said that the step which had been taken was not that of one Government alone, but that of all the Six Great Powers together, and that the Sultan had admitted its expediency by accepting it. There could be no use in attempting to resist the execution of a decision supported by so much actual strength. The Powers had taken every precaution to secure religious freedom for the inhabitants about to be annexed to Montenegro; and that, besides the guarantee contained in the Treaty of Berlin for the safety of real property, a further special arrangement was contemplated in favour of the Dulcigniotes. I explained that the unwillingness of Mahommedan mariners to sail under a flag bearing a cross would most likely be seldom brought to the test, as I expected most of the vessels now navigated by Dulcigniotes would be registered as belonging to Ottoman ports, and thus retain their right to the Turkish flag.

I had heard that an impression prevailed that the fleet, which was now collected at Ragusa, would not use its strength against Dulcigno; I wished, therefore, the messenger to tell his townsmen that this was a great mistake, and that most assuredly, if the Dulcigniotes persisted in their resistance, they would find the Montenegrins coming upon them under the protection of the united fleet. The hope which, I learnt, wicked people, availing themselves of the inexperience of the Dulcigniotes, had raised in their hearts of assistance from abroad, rested on no real foundation, and I was prepared to furnish the fullest assurances and explanations in this direction.

The master mariner replied that he would convey my message most faithfully to the Council of Notables at Dulcigno; but he felt bound to inform me at once that their determination to oppose the advance of the Montenegrins was irrevocable. They were even prepared to die in execution of a sentence from the Great Powers. I had repeatedly mentioned the Sultan's authority as being binding on the Dulcigniotes as Mussulmans. In reply, he could tell me that Islam taught every one to place his personal welfare above that of others, and, consequently, the Dulcigniotes had severed their tie with the Sultan; and, even if they escaped the expected destruction, they would never consent to return under the Sultan's sway. He had thrown them like a useless litter of kittens into the street to perish; if some one took pity on them, and picked them up, so much the better, but, anyhow, they no longer belonged to their destroyer.

It was true that the Dulcigniotes held the belief that they might be assisted by one or the other of the Powers, but this could only be known after they had shown how determined they were to refuse to be annexed by a sandal-wearing Prince, and how willingly they would accept to be governed by booted foreigners.

This expression of "booted foreigners" supports in a direct manner Riza Pasha's assertion, that the people of Dulcigno are hoping in Italian interference, as the Italians are generally designated in this manner on the Albanian coast.

None of my colleagues, who all received a similar notification from the Dulcigniotes as the one sent to me, thought of sending any answer through the messenger in question.

If I was to judge from the past conduct of the Turkish authorities, and the still intimate intercourse existing between them and the Dulcigniotes, I would feel disposed to think that Riza Pasha's open attack against M. Zerboni was intended to cover the launching of a document which the Porte may fancy will prove extremely unwelcome and embarrassing to the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Inhabitants of Dulcigno to Mr. Kirby Green:

(Translation.) *September* 3, 1880.

IT is with great regret that we have learnt that it has been decided to deliver our dear country Dulcigno to Montenegro, and that on this account the fleets of the great European Powers will, during these days, come to Dulcigno. As this weak population finds itself to have been from centuries past under the dominion of His Majesty the Sultan, and as its language, customs, and religion are opposed to those of Montenegro, it prefers to die and be entirely effaced rather than to be annexed to Montenegro, or to come under its savage government, and be separated from the upright government of His Imperial Majesty. Consequently, we are convinced that the Great Powers would not wish that there should be any bloodshed, and if conflicts should arise between our troops, collected on the frontier, and those of the Montenegrins, the responsibility of such occurrences must fall upon the Montenegrins, who would be the cause of them. We, therefore, beg you to arrange this affair in a satisfactory manner, without delay, and to leave us as we were before. We ask this of you, and we beg you to communicate our wishes to the Government which you represent, and to render us grateful by obtaining a favourable reply. You are the dispenser of orders and commandments.

(Here follow the signatures of the Mohammedan and Roman Catholic Notables of Dulcigno.)

No. 33.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 25.)
My Lord, *"Alexandra," Gravosa,* , 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that by direction of the Admiral in command Lieutenant Caillard, R.E., proceeded down the coast with a number of foreign officers and with Captain Lord Walter Kerr, R.N., on board Her Majesty's ship "Helicon," in order to reconnoitre the positions occupied by the Albanians in and around the town of Dulcigno. I inclose a copy of his Report for your Lordship's information.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Lieutenant Caillard to Captain Sale.

Sir, *"Helicon," September* 26, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report to you that in company with several of the naval commanders of the ships forming the combined fleet, at present stationed at Ragusa, I, in accordance with orders received, made a reconnaissance on board Her Majesty's ship

"Helicon" of such of the positions held by the Albanians as can be seen from the sea.

In passing down the coast from the north it was observed that any movements made by the Montenegrins in advancing from Antivari towards Dulcigno will be very little seen. The ground near the coast is too broken to be practicable for an advance in any sort of order along the shore, where the Montenegrins would be easily visible, while further inland, the country being well wooded, trees will obscure the Montenegrins from view. They will, however, be seen at intervals from Kula Pasina to Abdul Aga, again in commencing the ascent of Kurtina, and would probably come into full view at the position of the mosque of Kunia, which is at present a Montenegrin outpost.

The Montenegrins holding this outpost could be plainly seen with a telescope from Her Majesty's ship "Helicon."

After descending from the height on which the Mosque of Kunia is placed the Montenegrins would again be lost almost completely to view until they reached the foot of the Mazura heights. The slopes of these heights being almost bare, the Montenegrin movements on the northern side will be in full view of any ships stationed north of Sco Kruci, between that island and Point Meret, about one mile from the shore, and on the southern side from ships at the same distance from shore, between Sco Kruci and Point Mairian.

From the sea the only Albanian positions to be seen are those extending from the point on the Mazura marked 307 in the Austrian naval chart to that just above, and to east, south-east of the point marked 463.

The number of Albanians occupying these positions, as far as could be judged, was about 600.

On Mount Mairian there were observed two or three Albanians and a rough stone wall near the top; but it is doubtful whether the latter was put up for defensive purposes. Along the low range of hills to the south of Dulcigno similar stone walls were observed, and here and there a few Albanians.

At Dulcigno itself there was a camp on the hill above the town of thirty-three tents, which may be reckoned as about the accommodation allowed for one Turkish battalion.

Lying about three miles off Dulcigno was the Turkish frigate "Safamia."

The Albanians appear to be occupying exactly the crest of the Mazura heights, for their huts are plainly visible from the sea against the sky line both from the north and south of Sco Kruci.

They have surrounded their huts with stone walls, and have also thrown up stone walls along the northern slopes of the three points of the Mazura above mentioned, about 150 yards from the crest, and parallel to it.

This seems to be the only attempt made to fortify the position.

The only position from which the fire of the fleet could take effect on the whole of the Albanian works visible from the sea would be a semi-circle, with a radius of about 600 yards, round Sco Kruci. The distance from ships so moored to the furthest visible Albanian position would be about 4,100 yards; to the nearest, about 2,400 yards. If it were only necessary to fire at the nearest position, the ships for that purpose could be stationed at any distance from Sco Kruci up to 2,000 yards.

In any case the angle of elevation required for the guns would be about 16 degrees.

Up till 8·30 A.M. firing with any precision would be a matter of much difficulty, as the glare of the sun, reflected from the sea, would be right in the eyes of the gunners.

As far as can be judged, the only station suitable for signalling would be the mosque of Kunia, which commands a good view of the country round, and is distinctly visible from the sea.

If the landing of troops were to be considered, Val-di-Noce would be the most advantageous site for effecting it; for the valleys to the north and south of Mali Kruč could be swept by the fire of the fleet, and any attack on the landing parties prevented; Mali Kruč, being well within range from the sea, could be taken possession of without difficulty, and the Albanian positions on Mazura would be taken in reverse.

Troops could also be with advantage landed at Point Gerana, to take possession of Dulcigno, and, if necessary, to turn the right flank of the Albanians from the rear.

If Mazura be once taken from the Albanians the day may be considered as won by the Montenegrins, for any other ground on which the Albanians could take up a second position for the defence of Dulcigno would be under the fire of the fleet.

The probable line of retreat of the Albanians dislodged from Mazura would be along the southern slope of that mountain, towards Gorica, at which place they would probably re-form, behind the Turkish troops said to be at present stationed there.

N.B.—The Austrian naval chart for the coast near Dulcigno should accompany this Report.

The general conclusion arrived at both by the foreign naval commanders whom I had the honour to accompany and by myself is, that the fleet would be able to afford very little, if any, material aid to the Montenegrin army, in support of the offensive operations which the Prince of Montenegro declares himself to be willing to undertake, and as to the successful result of which he appears to be confident, provided his troops be supported by the fleet.

It has been pointed out that until the Montenegrins reach the foot of the Mazura heights they will be very little seen, it being therefore practically impossible to help them till they reach that point; also that an elevation of 16 degrees must be given to the guns of the ships in order that their fire may reach the Albanian positions.

It is impossible to obtain such an elevation from the guns of the larger ships, and is only possible with those of the smaller by giving the latter a considerable heel.

In addition to this disadvantage, it must be remarked that only a small portion of the Albanian positions are visible from the sea at all, apparently (from the statements of M. Bozo Petrovic, the Montenegrin Commander-in-chief) their extreme left.

The fleet would be of assistance after the capture of the heights of Mazura, for, as has already been remarked, it could prevent the Albanians re-forming and taking up a second position in defence of Dulcigno, while that town itself is also completely exposed to the fire of the fleet.

It is the general opinion, fully shared by myself, of the officers who took part in the reconnaissance, that, considering the strength of the positions held by the Albanians, and the almost certainty that they will be assisted by the Turkish regular troops, the Montenegrins making the attack, if supported by no more material aid than that which can be afforded them by the fleet from the sea, would undergo a very serious risk of defeat.

I have, &c.
(Signed) VINCENT H. P. CAILLARD.

No. 34.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 2.*)

(No. 26. Political.)
"*Alexandra*," *September* 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that I joined the flagship of Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour on the 12th instant.

On the 15th instant I visited Antivari, and went up to the Montenegrin camp on the heights of Sutterman, in order that I might procure information as to the actual state of affairs.

The result I reported to the Admiral, as also telegraphically to your Lordship.

On the 18th instant the Admiral addressed a summons to the Turkish authorities at Scutari and Dulcigno, calling upon them to hand over the Dulcigno district to Montenegro within three days; a copy of this summons is attached.

A communication was also addressed to Riza Pasha, holding him personally responsible for the safety of the Consuls and their families at Scutari.

These documents were sent by the hand of Lord Walter Kerr, Captain, R.N., accompanied by Lieutenant Caillard, R.E.

A communication had previously been addressed by the Admiral to the Doyen of the Consular Body at Scutari, requesting that the Consuls would at once take steps to remove themselves and their families to a place of safety.

On the 23rd instant, pending the answer to the summons, I accompanied the Admiral to Cettinjé with a view to arranging for the co-operation of the fleet with the Montenegrin army in the event of the answer of the Turkish authorities proving unfavourable.

The answer of the Turkish authorities was received whilst the Admiral was at Cettinjé, and was a refusal to hand over the district on the plea of absence of orders to do so.

Copies of this and of the other answers of the Turkish authorities are attached.

The substance of the answer was communicated to the Prince of Montenegro, who,

with full warning that he was likely to encounter the resistance of the Turkish regular troops as well as that of the Albanian tribes, most emphatically and earnestly declared his readiness to advance his army and to take possession of the Dulcigno district by force if necessary.

An arrangement was arrived at as to the mode of co-operation of the fleet with the Montenegrin army.

The Prince also handed to the Admiral a written exposé of the actual state of affairs; in this he reiterated his readiness to attack, if need be, both the Turks and the Albanians. See Inclosure No. 4.

On the 25th instant, the Admiral having returned to Gravosa, held a Conference of Naval Commanding Officers, and having laid before them the position of affairs, called upon them for a decision.

It was resolved unanimously that the time had come to invite the Prince formally to take possession of the Dulcigno district with the aid of the fleet; and, moreover, as the verbal and written declarations of the Prince apparently left no doubt as to his intentions, preliminary arrangements as to the movements of the fleet were decided upon.

A Protocol (unsigned) of this Conference is attached (Inclosure No. 5).

The formal invitation to the Prince (Inclosure No. 7) was handed over to the Prince's Agent at Gravosa the same day, and was at once telegraphed to Cettinjé.

On the evening of the same day (the 25th instant), a telegram was received from the Prince (Inclosure No. 6) saying that events had occurred since the Admiral's visit to Cettinjé which made it necessary to come to a fresh understanding; for which purpose M. Radonič, his Minister for Foreign Affairs, would be sent at once to see the Admiral in command.

On Sunday evening (26th instant) M. Radonič arrived. I met him, and ascertained from him that since the visit to Cettinjé the Prince had received a letter from Riza Pasha to say that any advance on the part of the Montenegrins would be deemed an act of war against Turkey.

Under these circumstances the Prince hesitated to advance, and thus to plunge his country into a formal war with the Ottoman Empire, having no better prospect of aid than such as could be given by the fleet. The Prince, therefore, before commencing hostilities, asked if he could count on the effective ulterior support of the Powers.

On Monday morning M. Radonič delivered to the Admiral the reply of the Prince to the formal invitation to occupy Dulcigno. This reply was, in substance, as given above. A copy is attached (Inclosure No. 8), and I venture to draw your Lordship's attention to the wording of it. It avoids refusing the invitation to advance, and says that the Prince is quite willing to attack the Dulcigno position, and then goes on to say, in effect, that he cannot do so before asking for an assurance of some aid more efficacious than that of the fleet.

This letter, as also the communication from Riza Pasha inclosed in it (see Inclosure No. 9), was laid before a Conference of Naval Commanding Officers, who at once decided to postpone the sailing of the fleet for Dulcigno, and to refer home for further instructions.

I venture to remark to your Lordship that the state of affairs is one hardly covered by the Admiral's instructions. The Prince does not actually refuse to comply with the invitation to advance, and professes his willingness to do so even if it involved an informal war with the Turkish local authorities. But for a small State like Montenegro to enter on a formal war with Turkey is another and a very different matter.

A reconnaissance made by various officers (amongst whom was Lieutenant Caillard, R.E.) has only served to confirm what was already tolerably evident, namely, that the fleet was powerless to give really effectual aid to the Montenegrins, so that the Prince may well be held justified in shrinking from the risk of war single-handed, or with such a slender prospect of support.

The most recent news, from Montenegrin sources, indicates that Riza Pasha is calling up the Albanian clans, and is moving up more troops from San Giovanni di Medua. There is a large wooden Turkish frigate off Dulcigno.

I venture to remark to your Lordship that whilst the fleet is almost powerless to act on these coasts, and whilst the very slender resources of Montenegro are being heavily drawn upon to maintain the whole available army of that State on the frontier, it is tolerably evident, from the eagerness shown by the Turkish Prime Minister, and by the Sultan himself (as set forth in Mr. Goschen's telegrams), to debar the Powers from making further use of the naval demonstration, that the real fear of the Turkish Government is that the fleet may eventually act nearer to Constantinople.

Up to the present time the relations between the several Admirals have been of the most satisfactory nature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 34.

Riza Pasha to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour, September 21, 1880.

[See Part LIII, No. 572, Inclosure 2.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 34.

Riza Pasha to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour, September $\frac{8}{21}$, 1880.

[Ibid., Inclosure 3.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 34.

Riza Pasha to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour, September 23, 1880.

[Ibid., Inclosure 5.]

Inclosure 4 in No. 34.

Written Exposé handed by Prince Nicholas to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

A SAITORMAN se trouvent rassemblé 6,000 hommes de l'armée Monténégrine avec six pièces d'artillerie (trois de campage, trois de montagne) sous le commandement de son Excellence le Voïvode Bejedar Petrovich.

2. Douze mille hommes sont échelonnés sur le reste de la ligne-frontière Albano-Monténégrine (Kraina, Zeta, Podgoritza, Koutchi, Vassojovitchi, et Kolachine).

3. Le corps commandé par son Excellence M. Bejadar Petrovich peut se porter de Saitorman aux avant-postes de la Majura en deux petites journées de marche.

4. D'après nos informations les Albanais occupent les points suivants: la crête de la Mojura, le village de Gorana, Kameni, Milchhi Most, le village de Ljeskovač et les hauteurs qui domine la cime du Mont Nerantchu Adji Mehmed, commandant des bandes Albanaises, se trouve derrière la Mojura dans le village de Kouči. Selon toute probabilité Dulcigno et les hauteurs environnantes sont également occupés par les Albanais.

5. D'après nos informations, le nombre des combattants Albanais serait aujourd'hui de 6,000 à 7,000 hommes.

6. Les troupes régulières campées dans les environs des points occupés par les Albanis sont distribuées comme suit: (*a*) à Goritza six bataillons avec huit pièces de montagne; (*b*) à Trap, bac sur le Boyana, deux compagnies, dont une d'artillerie; (*c*) à St. Giorgio, un bataillon avec un canon; (*d*) à Bjelagora, au-dessus de Dulcigno, un bataillon retranché et dans la forteresse même.

7. Les quatre retranchments Albanais de la Mojura situés sur la route menant de Rûn à Dulcigno, paraissent pouvoir être bombardé de la mer ainsi que ceux de la Bjelagora.

8. Vus les positions respectives des Albanais et les troupes régulières Turques il sera impossible d'attaquer les premiers sans attaquer aussi le Nizam.

9. Dans le but d'éviter les faits regrettables de Gousinjé et de Tuzi, où les forces régulières appuyaient les bandes, il nous paraît désirable qu'une sommation soit adressée au Commandant Turc de retirer ses troupes sur la rive gauche de la Boyana, parce que l'action une fois engagée ne pourraient être circonscrite dans les limites politiques du district devant être cédé au Monténégro.

10. Dans le cas où le Commandant Turc n'obtempérait pas à cette demande d'évacuation, nous sommes prêts d'agir éventuellement contre les uns et les autres sur l'invitation officielle du Commandant-en-chef de la flotte combinée.

11. Sur l'invitation des Représentants des Grandes Puissances l'armée Monténégrine a été rassemblée le 13 Septembre à Saitorman, ainsi que sur le reste de la frontière. Les dépenses que le Monténégro fait de ce chef est immense, et il est urgent que l'action ne soit plus retardée En outre, vu l'attitude de la Porte, chaque jour d'atermoiement augmente pour nous les difficultés militaires.

12. Sur la demande du Commandant-en-chef de la flotte unie, le Gouvernement Monténégrin détache auprès de lui un Délégué spécial; et il désirerait de son côté avoir des Délégués de la flotte dans le but d'éviter les malentendus dans l'action combinée, et pour constater les faits tels qu'ils se passeront durant cette action.

Inclosure 5 in No. 34.

Protocole de la Conférence des Officiers Commandants des Flottes Combinées, réunies à Raguse, à bord de H.M.S. "Alexandra," le 25 Septembre, 1880.

Etaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Capitaine Victor Valois.

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Vice-Amiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, K.C.B.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Contre-Amiral Eberen von Eberhost,
M. le Capitaine Nauta.

Pour la France—
M. le Contre-Amiral Lafont.

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Contre-Amiral Fincati.

Pour la Russie—
M. le Contre-Amiral de Krœmer.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure de l'après-midi.

M. le Vice-Amiral Seymour fait connaître à ses collègues qu'il a sommé une conférence des officiers commandants pour leur expliquer les circonstances de sa récente visite à Cettinjé, où, accompagné de M. le Capitaine Sale, il avait fait visite à Son Altesse le Prince du Monténégro.

Sir Beauchamp Seymour observe qu'il informa le Prince du Monténégro que, puisqu'il n'était pas encore prêt à lui donner une invitation officielle à occuper par force le territoire en question, et puisqu'il n'avait pas encore reçu la réponse officielle à la sommation que, en qualité d'officier commandant la flotte combinée, il avait envoyée à Riza Pacha, Commandant des troupes Ottomanes dans le vilayet de Scutari, néanmoins les circonstances le justifiaient à discuter les détails préliminaires avec son Altesse, en anticipation de ce que serait répondu à cette sommation.

M. le Vice-Amiral ajoute qu'il prévint le Prince du Monténégro que, d'après ses informations, l'entrée des troupes Monténégrines dans le district qui devrait être cédé, serait considérée par Riza Pacha comme un acte d'hostilité, et serait opposée, comme telle, par les troupes Turques.

Ayant fait remarquer à son Altesse le Prince les risques auxquels il s'exposerait en faisant cette entrée, les instructions impératives qui lui défendent absolument de débarquer des troupes sous aucun prétexte, et le degré très-limité d'aide matérielle que la flotte pourrait fournir à l'armée Monténégrine, Son Altesse fit réponse sans hésiter, qu'il connaissait parfaitement ces risques et le degré et la nature de l'aide que la flotte pourrait lui donner; mais que, malgré cela, sur la recette de l'invitation de l'officier commandant la flotte combinée, il était parfaitement prêt à attaquer la position de Dulcigno, même dans le cas où cette position serait défendue par toute la force des troupes Turques.

M. le Vice-Amiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour ajoute aussi qu'à la seconde réception par Son Altesse le Prince, Son Altesse réitéra, en substance, la même déclaration; que, le matin du lendemain, accompagné du Capitaine Sale, il a eu une troisième entrevue avec Son Altesse le Prince, qui, de sa part, était accompagné de M. Stanko Radonich, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et de M. Božo Petrović, Commandant-en-

chef de l'armée Monténégrine. Par suite de cette entrevue, les dispositions suivantes étaient prises, devant être mises en exécution seulement dans le cas où une invitation officielle serait envoyée.

1. M. Božo Petrović doit venir à bord à Antivari quand la flotte allonge la côte, en route pour faire la démonstration vis-à-vis de Dulcigno, et doit rester à bord pendant le tout, ou une partie de la démonstration préliminaire de la flotte combinée.

2. Les arrangements détaillés, quant au rendez-vous, les signaux, &c., &c., seront faits entre Sir Beauchamp Seymour et M. Božo Petrović, quand le dernier sera à bord.

3. Le signal pour commencer l'action sera le commencement du feu des batteries Monténégrines contre la position du Muzura.

4. Sur ce signal, les navires de la flotte destinés à ce devoir, commenceront à tirer sur les retranchements et les positions fortifiées de Dulcigno, aussi bien que sur celles sur les pentes du Muzura; étant bien entendu, sur le désir de Son Altesse le Prince et de Sir Beauchamp Seymour, qu'on ne dirigera le feu aucunement sur les résidences des habitants.

Sur ces faits son Altesse donna à Sir Beauchamp Seymour un exposé écrit de la situation, dans lequel il déclara son consentement à occuper le district, s'il deviendrait nécessaire, même si les Monténégrins seraient opposés par les troupes Turques.

M. le Vice-Amiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, ayant expliqué ainsi la nature et l'objet de son entrevue avec Son Altesse le Prince, et ayant lu aux officiers commandants une sélection des télégrammes récemment reçus, qui indiquaient que plus de délai serait mal à propos, il leur demanda leurs opinions sur le point suivant: "Le temps d'occuper le district de Dulcigno, s'il est nécessaire par force, n'est-il pas arrivé?"

MM. les officiers commandants ayant répondu unanimement dans l'affirmative à cette question, le brouillon de l'invitation à Son Altesse le Prince du Monténégro était lu et approuvé.

M. le Contre-Amiral Fricati fait remarquer que Son Altesse le Prince avait observé qu'il serait très-désirable de sommer les troupes Turques à se retirer au delà de la frontière afin d'éviter une collision avec l'armée Monténégrine.

M. le Contre-Amiral Lafont observe qu'on paraît déjà avoir pris des mesures contre cette possibilité en envoyant la sommation de trois jours, mais on décida enfin de faire parvenir une seconde sommation au Consul-Général de la Sublime Porte à Raguse; étant bien entendu qu'on n'attendra pas la réponse à cette sommation avant de procéder à l'action.

Sir Beauchamp Seymour offre gracieusement à ses collègues les services de H.M.S. "Helicon" pour faire une reconnaissance préliminaire.

MM. les officiers commandants acceptent la proposition de M. le Vice-Amiral Anglais en le remerciant, et se décident d'envoyer des délégués à bord de H.M.S. "Helicon."

On tombe d'accord que la flotte doit partir de Gravose vers Dulcigno au midi de Lundi prochain, et que la vitesse moyenne de la flotte doit être 6 nœuds par heure.

La séance est levée à 2 heures.

Fait à Raguse, à bord de H.M.S. "Alexandra," le 25 Septembre, 1880.

Inclosure 6 in No. 34.

Prince Nicholas to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

(Télégraphique.)
(Urgentissime.)

VU les changements d'une partie sérieuse qui viennent de se produire dans notre situation politique et militaire vis-à-vis la Turquie, une nouvelle explication entre nous devient absolument nécessaire. Je délègue auprès de votre Excellence pour ces explications le Voïvode Radonich, mon Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et je vous prie instamment d'avoir la bonté d'envoyer à Cattaro un des bâtiments legers en votre disposition pour prendre à bord M. Radonich, et de le ramener suamite [ensuite?] sans perte de temps. J'attends avec impatience la réponse de votre Excellence, et M. Radonich partira pour Cattaro aussitôt cette réponse reçue.

Le Prince de Monténégro,
(Signé) NICOLAS.

Inclosure 7 in No. 34.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to Prince Nicholas.

Monseigneur, *A bord l'"Alexandra," à Gravose, le 25 Septembre*, 1880.

EN qualité de Commandant-en-chef de la flotte combinée, se trouvant à présent dans le port de Gravose, j'invite votre Altesse, par ces présentes, à prendre possession du district de Dulcigno par moyens militaires, et je donne l'assurance à votre Altesse qu'elle recevra tout l'appui que la flotte pourra lui fournir, tant que ce sera conforme à la restriction imposée par les instructions aux divers officiers commandants, qui défend le débarquement de troupes sous aucun prétexte.

Pour me mettre en position de concerter avec votre Altesse des mesures plus efficaces afin de mieux aider les troupes Monténégrines à occuper la position, j'invite votre Altesse à tenir ses troupes prêtes à s'avancer dans le district qui doit être annexé au Monténégro le matin après l'apparition de la flotte combinée à Dulcigno.

Si le temps le permet la flotte combinée paraître à Dulcigno dans la matinée de Mardi prochain, le 28 du courant.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) BEAUCHAMP SEYMOUR.

Inclosure 8 in No. 34.

Prince Nicholas to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Mylord, *Cettinjé, le* $\frac{14}{26}$ *Septembre*, 1880.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir par télégraphie la teneur de votre lettre, par laquelle votre Excellence veut bien m'annoncer le prochain départ de la flotte combinée pour Dulcigno, en m'invitant de faire marcher mes troupes dans ce district, et en m'avertissant que l'appui que la flotte réunie est autorisée à me prêter exclue l'éventualité d'un débarquement.

Un événement très-grave vient de modifier l'état de choses qui avait formé la base de nos pourparlers pendant le séjour de votre Excellence à Cettinjé.

Par lettre en date du 23 courant, que j'ai l'honneur de joindre ci-près en copie, le Commandant Ottoman Riza Pacha nous déclare que si les troupes Monténégrines avançaient dans les frontières de Dulcigno il les attaquerait.

La situation est donc telle qu'il ne s'agit plus de combattre la résistance des bandes Albanaises, mais bien l'opposition formelle des troupes de la Sublime Porte.

D'après de nouvelles informations il nous revient que Riza Pacha a ordonné à toutes les Montagnes de l'Albanie d'envoyer dans le plus bref délai leurs contingents à Dulcigno, et y a appelé en même temps six autres bataillons de réguliers campés à St. Jean de Medua.

Nous renforcerons en conséquence dans le plus bref délai nos troupes concentrées maintenant à Antivari dégarnissant, dans la mesure du possible, notre frontière de l'autre côté du lac, et sur l'invitation de votre Excellence, my Lord, nous attaquerons les forces Ottomanes qui s'opposeraient à notre marche, mais ce sera la guerre avec la Turquie.

Nous acceptons cette situation, mais avant d'affronter l'action qui nous conduirait à une véritable lutte avec l'Empire Ottoman, nous sommes obligés de prier les Grandes Puissances de vouloir bien nous dire si dans ce conflit nous pouvons compter sur leur appui politique et militaire plus efficace que celui d'une démonstration navale dans ses limites actuelles.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Prince de Monténégro,
(Signé) NICOLAS.

Inclosure 9 in No. 34.

Riza Pasha to M. Bozo Petrovic.

(Traduction.)
M. le Commandant, *Scutari, le 23 Septembre*, 1880.

JE viens d'apprendre qu'une concentration de troupes Monténégrines a lieu depuis quelques jours sur les frontières, et qu'elles augmentent de jour en jour. Vous

n'ignorez certainement pas, je le crois, M. le Commandant, que le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman a soumis à l'approbation des Hautes Puissances les trois conditions formant la base de la cession et l'évacuation de Dulcigno aux autorités du Monténégro. Des pourparlers sont entamés à ce propos entre la Sublime Porte et les Cabinets des Grandes Puissances. Ceci posé, je crois de mon devoir de vous déclarer, M. le Commandant, que je considérerai comme acte d'hostilité toute opération militaire avant que ces négociations aboutissent à un résultat satisfaisant, et avant que les ordres en conséquence me fussent parvenus pour vous en donner connaissance, que je me verrai dans la pénible nécessité de repousser la force par la force en cas que l'on ne patienterait pas l'arrivée des dispositions nécessaires, laissant dès à présent aux autorités de la Principauté la responsabilité de tout empiétement.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Principauté du Monténégro, déclare que la présente copie est conforme à l'original.

(Signé) S. RADONICH.

No. 35.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 424.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 24, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 412 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to inclose an extract from a private note which I have just received from Baron de Jomini, stating that he hears from Livadia that the Russian Ambassador has been authorized to concert with his colleagues respecting the application of the statute elaborated by the Eastern Roumelian Commission.

Baron Jomini's note would seem to imply a more immediate action than I understand your Lordship to have asked for, but this probably arises from the brevity of the telegrams exchanged between him and Livadia, and M. de Novikow is, in any case, authorized to concert with his colleagues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Baron Jomini to Mr. Plunkett.

(Extrait.) *Le* $\frac{13}{25}$ *Septembre*, 1880.

UN télégramme de Livadia m'informe que votre proposition concernant l'application immédiate du Statut élaboré par la Commission de la Roumélie Orientale est accepté, et que l'Ambassadeur de Russie à Constantinople est autorisé à s'entendre avec ses collègues pour agir en conséquence.

No. 36.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 425. Extender.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 26, 1880.

I TOOK an opportunity to-day to inquire of Baron Jomini how it was that M. de Novikow had not been authorized to communicate the self-denying Protocol to the Porte as well as to sign it. I said that, under the circumstances, the other Ambassadors had agreed to postpone the communication until a more favourable time, but nevertheless I wished to know why, in his reply to the note which Lord Dufferin had written (copy of which is herewith inclosed), he had not told me that the Russian Ambassador would only be authorized to sign, and not also authorized to communicate.

Baron de Jomini replied that he had transmitted Lord Dufferin's note to Livadia both by telegraph and by messenger, and when, in return, he was desired by M. de Giers to tell me that M. de Novikow had been instructed to sign, he had forwarded the message to me as he had received it.

Copy of the part of his Excellency's private letter referring to this matter is also herewith inclosed.

He said he had himself noticed the omission in M. de Giers' telegram of the allusion to the communication, but had not attached importance to it.

Telegraphic communication with Livadia is necessarily brief, and he supposed that the instructions sent to M. de Novikow would have been in accordance with Lord Dufferin's request.

It must, he presumed, have been purely accidental if this had not been done, but, of course, he could give me no further explanation without referring to M. de Giers.

The fact is, as your Lordship well knows, that, when the Court is at Livadia, the Foreign Department here knows next to nothing of what is really going on there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 36.

The Earl of Dufferin to Baron Jomini.

M. le Baron, *St. Petersburgh, September* 7, 1880.

I HAVE the honour, at the request of my Government, to inform your Excellency that all the Powers have agreed in principle to the self-denying Protocol to which M. de Giers assented, in the name of the Imperial Government, in his Excellency's note of the 21st July.

I have further the honour of stating that Her Majesty's Government have agreed to the modifications proposed by Austria, according to which the Protocol will run as follows:—

"The Governments represented by the Undersigned, in order to prove anew the entire disinterestedness with which they pursue the execution of all the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, engage not to seek, in any arrangements which may be come to in consequence of their concerted action, the execution of the said Treaty in regard to the Montenegrin question, and eventually the Greek question, any augmentation of territory, any exclusive influence, or any commercial advantage for their subjects which those of any other nation may not equally obtain."

Her Majesty's Government would be glad to know whether the Imperial Russian Ambassador may be authorized to sign this Protocol, should his Excellency not already have done so; and I have further the honour of asking your Excellency if the Imperial Government agree with that of Her Majesty in thinking that it would be advisable to communicate this Protocol at once to the Porte, with a view of giving the Ottoman Government a proof of the disinterestedness of the action of the Powers in pressing for a settlement of the Greek and Montenegrin frontier questions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 36.

Baron Jomini to Mr. Plunkett.

(Extrait.) *Le* $\frac{22 \text{ Août}}{3 \text{ Septembre}}$ 1880.

JE suis informé de Livadia que le Cabinet Impérial est prêt à s'associer au Gouvernement Anglais pour inviter le Prince de Monténégro à occuper Dulcigno.

2. Qu'il est prêt à signer le Protocole de désintéressement.

No. 37.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 2.)

(No. 426. Confidential. Extender.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 24, 1880.

BARON JOMINI observed to me to-day that the latest accounts received from M. de Novikow represented the Turks as determined to resist to the last, and, his Excellency said, if they did so, the crisis which we are now approaching is the most serious that can be imagined.

It is true, said the Baron, that the united squadrons can easily force the Turks and Albanians to evacuate the Dulcigno territory, and they can establish the Montenegrins

there; but what can the ships do if the Albanians attack the Montenegrins at some point which the guns cannot reach? Would Europe look on quietly while the Montenegrins, whom their vessels had gone to protect, were being destroyed? He fears not only that the Albanians will adopt some violent measures of this kind, but he also professed to fear that, in the present excited state of the Mussulman spirit, the first shot fired at Dulcigno was re-echoed from other and unexpected corners of the Ottoman Empire.

I said I thought his Excellency was somewhat exaggerating the dangers, and that he would yet see that, at the last moment, Turkey would quietly accept the inevitable. Besides, it would be very injudicious at present to discuss eventualities which probably would not arise, but which would have the immediate evil effect of necessitating further discussions among the Powers. The Powers now should show a united front to Turkey, and all would be well.

The Baron would not reply further to my inquiry, whence he expected the echo to come, than by saying that the Mussulmans would take revenge on the Christians elsewhere for this humiliation in Montenegro; and then what will the Powers do?

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 38.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 2.)

(No. 430. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 25, 1880.

BARON JOMINI informs me that Chakir Pasha called upon him to-day to communicate the last reply of the Porte to the note on the Montenegrin question which was signed by the Ambassadors on the 15th instant.

This reply had been already communicated to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, and is drawn up in the terms reported in Mr. Goschen's telegrams Nos. 252 and 253, repeated to me in your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 706 and 711 of the 23rd instant.

While stating that he would at once inform M. de Giers of this communication, and convey the reply to Chakir Pasha as soon as it was received from Livadia, Baron Jomini warned his Excellency that he could hold out no hope that the Turkish conditions would be accepted. Russia would never agree to abandon the naval demonstration unless the demands set forth in the note of the 15th instant were accepted by the Porte, and, moreover, she could take no engagement as to abandoning all demonstrations of the same nature elsewhere.

Baron Jomini says he told the Turkish Ambassador that there were only three points from which the present naval demonstration in the Adriatic could be viewed.

1. If the Porte is willing to give up Dulcigno and to accede to the arrangement proposed by the European Powers, but has not the power to force the Albanians to accept it; she ought to see in the naval demonstration only the means of strengthening the hands of the Turkish Commander, and enabling him to enforce the orders of his Sovereign.

2. If the Porte is able to force the Albanians to accept the arrangement, but does not choose to do so; the demonstration is only a hint that it would be wiser of Turkey to comply with the summons addressed to her by the Great Powers.

3. If the Porte has neither the will nor the power to force the Albanians to accept the inevitable, she must not be surprised that Europe, who cannot allow her decisions to be thwarted, should herself put them into execution when the Sultan cannot, or will not, do so.

Baron Jomini said the Turkish Ambassador replied to this by pleading for more time to allow the Sultan to arrange for the peaceable evacuation of the territory assigned to Montenegro.

After repeating to me the above, Baron Jomini went on to say that his last accounts from Constantinople left little hope of a peaceful solution of the Montenegrin question. The Sultan seems to feel that if he yields at Dulcigno he is lost, not only on the Greek question, but also on any other questions which may arise in future. The Baron, therefore, asked again, as he has so often done of late, "What is to be the next step?" When the fleets appear off Dulcigno, that place, he argues, may, perhaps, be quietly surrendered; but inland, out of reach of the ship's cannon, what will take place? Will

Europe allow the Montenegrins to be cut to pieces by the Albanians? It is now time that the Powers should contemplate this probable contingency, and decide what is to be done to prevent injury happening to the Montenegrins for complying with the summons of the Powers to take possession of Dulcigno. I said I had no instructions to discuss this point, and I thought it would still be premature to raise such a question. I could not admit the possibility of Turkey not at the last moment yielding to the decision of a united Europe. I considered much harm might arise from prematurely raising discussions on the contrary supposition. This might endanger the continued unanimity of the Powers, and everything, in my opinion, now depended on their proving to the Porte how thoroughly they were of one mind.

The apparent probability of Turkish resistance to the Dulcigno arrangement, and the consequent necessity for action, seem to me to be viewed here with feeling in which there is but little regret.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 39.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 2.)

(No. 932.)
My Lord, *Paris, September* 30, 1880.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 1297A of the 25th instant, I have expressed to Baron de Courcel the satisfaction felt by Her Majesty's Government at the declaration made by him to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires of the intention of the French Government not to separate themselves from the other Powers in the Montenegrin frontier question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 40.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 2.)

(No. 937.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 1, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 106 of yesterday, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the French text, as telegraphed by M. Tissot, of the remainder of the collective note to the Porte of the 26th instant, being that part which is contained between the two paragraphs already communicated by me to your Lordship with my despatch No. 917 of the 28th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

Inclosure in No. 40.

Extrait de la Note Collective en date du 26 Septembre, 1880, *remise au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Turquie par les Représentants à Constantinople des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin.*

EN ce qui concerne la première des conditions indiquées par la note du 22 Septembre, c'est-à-dire, l'abandon de toute démonstration navale, les Soussignés constatent qu'elle est inacceptable. Aucune Puissance ne saurait aliéner ni limiter le droit inhérent à sa souveraineté de faire usage de ses forces au moment où elle peut le juger nécessaire, et tous les Cabinets se réservent à cet égard une entière liberté d'appréciation et d'action.

Quant au second point visé dans la note Turque et relatif aux garanties demandées par la Porte en ce qui concerne la sécurité personnelle, la propriété, et la religion des habitants des territoires cédés au Monténégro, les Puissances sont d'autant plus disposées à donner satisfaction au Gouvernement Ottoman que les Articles XXVII et XXX du Traité de Berlin répondent déjà à ses préoccupations. Elles sont prêtes, le cas échéant, à formuler et compléter ces garanties par une déclaration spéciale.

Pour ce qui regarde les deux points compris dans la troisième condition, les Puissances sont dans la nécessité de maintenir, en ce qui concerne la ligne-frontière, les conditions indiquées dans la note collective du 15 Septembre; mais elles s'engagent volontiers, dès que la Porte aura accepté et exécuté les conditions posées dans cette communication, à ne demander aucune autre cession territoriale en faveur du Monténégro.

No. 41.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 2.)

Admiralty, October 1, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request that you will inform Earl Granville that Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, in a telegram dated from Gravosa yesterday, has reported that, in consideration of the state of the weather, it is his intention to remove the fleet to Cattaro within the next week.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 42.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 2, 8 A.M.)

(No. 278.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 1, 1880, 11:30 P.M.

AT our meeting this afternoon situation was as follows:—

Russian and French Ambassadors had no instructions at all.

German and Italian Ambassadors similar to those of Austrian Ambassador.

None had instructions to add to the passage granting delay the important phrase with which your Lordship's telegram No. 605 concludes, alluding to the "ulterior measures."

No Ambassador besides myself had instructions speaking of collective or identic note.

A distinction was drawn by all between two points, the question of remonstrance and inquiries as regards Riza Pasha's instructions.

It was thought that verbal communication of Under-Secretary should not be answered by a note, but only by a less formal communication made verbally with a *pro-memorid*.

Great difficulty was felt as to a communication granting delay which had not been asked for, and which had almost expired. The communication made in the name of the Sultan was that the Sultan was prepared to arrange all pending questions by Sunday.

This declaration was not dependent on acceptance by the Powers of the delay. It was absolutely informal.

After an almost interminable discussion, the difficulties resulting from the above circumstances were compromised by a phrase that the Ambassadors take note ("prendre acte") of the intention of the Sultan to arrange everything by Sunday next.

This amounted to accepting the delay and evading the difficulty of granting explicitly two days' respite.

For further particulars see my subsequent telegram.

No. 43.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 2, 8 A.M.)

(No. 279.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 1, 1880, 11:45 P.M.

CONTINUATION of telegram No. 278.

The point on which Austrian Ambassador laid stress was that the surrender of Dulcigno should again be urged, while everybody else thought that this demand was so clearly before the Porte already that a further request would not strengthen our position. It finally appeared that the reason for his insisting was the fear that the arrangement announced by the Sultan as in preparation might include such new suggestion for settlement of Montenegrin frontier in a direction disagreeable to Austria. We thought this chimerical, but our Austrian colleague and the Russian Ambassador declining to sign any

note, the execution of the instructions of other Ambassadors as to the explanations to be demanded in regard to Riza Pasha's orders, and the remonstrances on that head, were necessarily deferred. Meanwhile, a *pro-memorid* is to be given to Foreign Minister, of which the following is a translation:—

"Ambassadors have informed their Governments of communication made to them by Artin Effendi, in the name of the Sultan; they take note of the resolution announced by His Majesty to settle definitely Dulcigno question with the briefest delay, that is to say, by Sunday, the 3rd October, and they express their firm confidence that this settlement will conclude (*sic*) [? include] the immediate surrender of Dulcigno, and the dispatch of instructions accordingly to Riza Pasha."

Austrian Ambassador argued that the addition of any allusion to "ulterior measures" would destroy the encouraging character his Government wished to give to the communication.

As no colleagues had instructions to use this phrase, and as I gathered that your Lordship's instructions to me were intended on the whole to meet the Austrian view, I very reluctantly refrained from pressing the words.

The communication, as finally settled, seems innocuous, though probably useless.

I beg your Lordship further to bear in mind that words had to be chosen which the Russian Ambassador would accept without instructions.

Communication is made to-night.

No. 44.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 2, 12 noon.)

(No. 280.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 1, 1880, 11·55 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador called a meeting yesterday (Thursday), when no one except himself had received instructions.

We were unable to agree on some proposals he made *de novo*, partly because we had then no instructions and partly because, in the absence of guidance from our Governments, all thought these proposals unlikely to secure their object. But we agreed to make a representation in a certain form to the Porte, with reference to orders and conduct of Riza Pasha.

However, I informed my colleagues that probably I should hear from your Lordship by this morning, and it was agreed that if I or others received instructions this morning (Friday), differing from or covering more than the communication agreed upon, the messenger who was to take it to the Porte this morning should be stopped, and another meeting called. This was done on my receiving your Lordship's telegrams Nos. 605 and 611.

The result of to-day's meeting is contained in my telegrams Nos. 278 and 279.

All of us, except Austrian Ambassador, understood none of us should telegraph the decision of Thursday night till we knew this morning whether it would really be carried out. But Austrian Ambassador, not hearing the understanding, telegraphed at length, stating what was done and what was not done, but without mentioning that the communication was kept pending till this morning. His telegram may have caused confusion, hence my present explanation.

No. 45.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 2, 11·56 P.M.)

(No. 282.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 2, 1880, 9·40 P.M.

YOUR telegrams all received up to No. 625.

I hear it is certain that we shall have the communication from the Sultan or the Ministers by to-morrow night or Monday morning.

Information received with regard to it is in the direction that Dulcigno will be surrendered, but it is not reliable.

We must not, I think, send any further notes or communications to the Porte till we receive the promised announcement.

No. 46.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 641.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1880.

AMBASSADORS at Constantinople have agreed to give to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs a *pro-memorid*, of which following is a translation:—

"Ambassadors have informed their Governments of communication made to them by Artin Effendi in the name of the Sultan. They take note of the resolution announced by His Majesty to settle definitely question with the briefest delay, that is to say, by Sunday, the 3rd October, and they express their firm confidence that this settlement will include the immediate surrender of Dulcigno, and the despatch of instructions accordingly to Riza Pasha."

No. 47.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 692.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1880.

IN conversation recorded in a despatch sent to you last night viâ Berlin by special messenger, I suggested to German Ambassador and Austrian Chargé d'Affaires various means of pressure on the Porte. The Austrian Government might guarantee the frontier of Montenegro, while a force from the ships, or even some troops of which the Powers would not be jealous, were landed. Without actual war, resort might be had to reprisals or seizure, as a material guarantee, of some place inconvenient to the Porte, but where population would not be excited.

The naval demonstration might be extended to places which would be useful for the Greek frontier settlement. Any of these undertaken by the combined Powers would have an effect. I added that we should not shrink from responsibility in applying pressure, but wished it done judiciously and by a combination of the Powers. I stated that I was making no proposal, but merely wished to put forward suggestions as substitutes for that which was perhaps the most efficacious, but which might be accompanied by grave consequences—going to Constantinople.

Try and get some answer from Baron Haymerle.

No. 48.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 2, 12·45 P.M.)

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October* 2, 1880, 11 A.M.

I HAVE not communicated to Italian Government French conciliatory intentions respecting Tunis.

No. 49.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 525.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1880, 2·30 P.M.

LOSE no time in asking French Government what their views are as to the Greek frontier question, whether they will continue the initiative M. de Freycinet took, our desire being fully to co-operate with them.

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* Also to Sir H. Elliot (No. 694), Mr. Plunkett (No. 757), Lord Lyons (No. 527), Sir A. Paget (No. 685), and Captain Sale (No. 23).

No. 50.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1880.

MR. ZOHRAB, now in London, has applied for a ship of war to be stationed at Jeddah during the next four months, in view of the approaching pilgrim season, and to protect British interests, in consequence of present relations between England and Turkey.

Report if you think this necessary.

No. 51.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 628.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 2, 1880, 5·20 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 279 of yesterday.

Her Majesty's Government approve your having agreed to *pro-memorid* which is to be given to Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting Sultan's message.

No. 52.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 2, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 163.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 2, 1880, 5 P.M.

I HAVE read to Baron Haymerle your Lordship's telegram No. 688, and insisted strongly that after the steps they had already taken it was impossible the Powers should stop without having obtained the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier.

He readily admitted this, but said that when wider issues and pressure in a more extended field were spoken of, all the bearings and consequences of the measures to be proposed would require very careful consideration, and this he would promise to give to any suggestion that your Lordship may make.

The Delegations are about to meet, and the opinion of the country is so generally opposed to the adoption of measures of coercion upon Turkey likely to lead to fresh complications, that even if he saw his way more clearly than he does, he would prefer that the course to be followed should be proposed by others rather than by himself, but he must in any case take care not to be drawn into a state of war with Turkey, nor to take part in anything that would make a flame burst out in Eastern Roumelia and Macedonia which would open a much larger issue than that which we were trying to close at Dulcigno.

He asked if I knew anything of a proposal to blockade the Dardanelles, and upon my saying that I did not, he said that it appeared to him not only an act of war, but one at least as injurious to the European countries as to Turkey.

No. 53.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 2, 10·10 P.M.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October* 2, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

GREEK Minister at Constantinople informs his Government that the Sultan applied to German Emperor to interfere to prevent naval demonstration. His Majesty answered that he could not separate his action from that of other Powers, and recommended the Sultan to carry out faithfully the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 54.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 544 A.)

Foreign Office, October 2, 1880.

Sir,

IN the instructions which, by the command of the Queen, I had the honour of addressing to your Excellency on your proceeding as Her Majesty's Special Ambassador to Constantinople, I called your Excellency's attention to the pressing character of the question relating to the Montenegrin frontier.

This question had been under discussion for a great length of time. The final proposals made by the Plenipotentiaries to the Porte at the close of the Constantinople Conference of the 15th January, 1877, recommended a rectification of the frontiers of Montenegro, including the Kuči Kraina and other mountain districts east of Lake Scutari.

During the war the Montenegrins captured Dulcigno on the 18th January, 1878, and occupied the country up to the Boyana, advancing nearly to Scutari.

By the Treaty of San Stefano a very large addition was made to Montenegro. The frontier was traced a long way to the north in Herzegovina; to the east it was made nearly contiguous to Servia; to the south it comprised Dulcigno and the Boyana, and nearly all Lake Scutari, leaving only the town to Turkey; and to the south-east it included the Hotti district, Tusi, and the whole of Gusinjé and Plava.

By the Treaty of Berlin this was materially reduced, especially in the north and east, while to the south Dulcigno was restored to Turkey, the Clementi, Grudi, and Hotti tribes left to Albania, and the most material extension to the south-east was the district of Gusinjé and Plava.

The Montenegrin troops, in fulfilment of the XXXIInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, have been withdrawn from the district of Dulcigno, but the Porte has failed to comply with the Treaty by the transfer of Gusinjé and Plava. On the urgent representations of the Porte of the difficulty of placing the district in the possession of Montenegro the Powers agreed to an arrangement, to which the Prince of Montenegro had previously signified his assent, by which the Porte undertook to surrender instead a strip of territory inhabited by the Hotti, Grudi, and Clementi tribes, together with the district of Kuči Kraina.

An agreement to this effect, to be executed within ten days, was signed in the first instance between the Porte and the Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires on the 12th April, and a Protocol recording that the new line of frontier therein described was accepted in substitution for the frontier specified in the Treaty of Berlin was signed by the Representatives of the Treaty Powers and the Porte on the 18th April.

When the time came for the surrender of this territory the Turkish Commander failed to give twenty-four hours' notice, as had been agreed upon, to the Montenegrin authorities, and the result was that when the Turkish troops evacuated the fortified positions on the Podgoritza plain, which command the road between Podgoritza and Scutari, the Albanians took possession of them, and the Montenegrins, finding that they would be resisted, did not attempt to advance. The Albanians continued to hold the country, and the Porte did not attempt to dislodge them.

This was the situation when your Excellency arrived at Constantinople. The Montenegrins and Albanians were face to face, skirmishes were occurring between the outposts, and it was evident that unless steps were taken without delay for the settlement of the frontier, active hostilities might at any time ensue.

In the identic note addressed to the Porte on the 11th June the Powers accordingly represented that the state of things created by the question of the Montenegrin frontier required pressing attention and immediate solution.

The note added:—

"The Turkish authorities have failed to carry out the engagement entered into between the Porte and Montenegro, and adhered to by the Representatives of the Powers in the Protocol of the 18th April, 1880. They have compromised the agreement accepted by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan by allowing the Albanians to occupy certain frontier positions assigned to the Montenegrins, and a collision may at any time occur between the Montenegrins and the Albanian forces opposed to them.

"The Powers, therefore, consider themselves absolutely bound to request the Government of His Imperial Majesty to state in the most explicit terms what their intentions are as regards the Montenegrin frontier, and to put into immediate execution the arrangement come to between the Sublime Porte and Montenegro. The Powers hold the Sublime Porte responsible in advance for the grave consequences

that might be produced by a further delay in giving satisfaction to the rights acquired by the Principality."

On the 24th June the Porte replied to this part of the identic note by offering, if the necessary time were allowed, to again undertake the execution of the Protocol of the 18th April, and to pay to the Montenegrin Government the taxes levied by the Turkish authorities upon the territory which the Montenegrins had been provisionally unable to occupy.

Abédine Pasha added that the Porte was at the same time ready to take into consideration any other mode of settlement which might be suggested by the Powers, and which would attain the desired result without bloodshed or the disorders which would follow on a violent resistance.

Her Majesty's Consul-General at Scutari, together with the Austrian Consul-General, had suggested some time previously that an alternative plan might be proposed with greater prospects of success for bringing about a peaceful solution of the difficulty if the Porte would consent to the surrender of the district of Dulcigno, together with a small strip of territory between the Lake of Scutari and Podgoritza, and the Kuči Kraina, but excluding the Hotti district and the Grudi and Clementi Mountains, which had been comprised in the Agreement of the 18th April.

Her Majesty's Government were informed that this scheme had been mentioned to some of the leaders of the North Albanians, who intimated that they would not be unwilling to agree to it if the Powers would guarantee to them some form of local self-government.

Her Majesty's Government have always had in view the importance of establishing a better system of administration for the various clans which occupy the highlands of Albania, and this proposal presented the advantage that in relieving the Porte from the difficulty of carrying out the April Agreement, it afforded an opportunity to the Powers of urging the necessity of restoring order in this part of European Turkey. Your Excellency is aware from the reports which have been received that the state of the country in North-east Albania is little short of anarchy. The Turkish officials are powerless to execute justice; murder, violence, and forced exactions are prevalent, and the peaceable population is at the mercy of the armed committees who, under the name of the Albanian League, have been allowed to assume absolute authority.

Communications passed between the Powers which resulted in a general assent to the scheme, and Mr. Green and M. Lippich, the Austrian Consul-General, laid the new proposal before the Prince of Montenegro, who, after some demur, accepted it.

The result of these communications between the Powers and the Prince of Montenegro and the Albanians was that the following joint proposals of Mr. Green and M. Lippich were telegraphed to your Excellency:—

"All military posts recently erected by the Turks in an offensive sense against Podgoritza to be destroyed.

"The frontier line to follow the thalweg of the Boyana from its mouth to the point where stream from Lake Sas falls into it, thence in a direct line to furthest eastern projection of the frontier proposed by the Russian Commissioners last year, and marked in Captain Sale's map of 'the frontier between the lake and the sea,' to follow the Russian line up to 11th point voted by the Commission, thereabouts join Commission's line and descend it to point 18 on the lake, the waters of which to be divided by a direct line from points 18 to 19 in Captain Sale's maps of 1879.

"The Frontier voted by Boundary Commission from points 19 to 23 to be maintained, and thence follow red line to points 24 and 24*, and be continued by Russian blue line as far as Suka-Gruda, and thence along southern frontier of the Kuči Kraina, as verified by Boundary Commission, up to its termination at Planinica; from that locality Count Corti's line to stand good.

"The Consuls to be enabled to assure the North Albanians that their legitimate aspirations will not be disregarded, and an Imperial Proclamation in this sense to be issued by Turkish authorities.

"These administrative reforms should, in the opinion of Mr. Green and the Austrian Consul, be limited for the present to the Vilayet of Scutari.

"The Governor-General of the Scutari Vilayet to be an Albanian Mahommedan, to be chosen, if possible, in the vilayet; the Vice-Governor to be a Roman Catholic. A Christian Kaimakam of the Roman Catholic tribes of the Great Mountain to be appointed to reside at Tousi.

"The proposed form of Administration to be submitted for consideration to the North Albanians."

On the 26th June the new proposal was laid before the Porte in an identic note which, referring to the last paragraph of the Porte's note of the 24th, indicated as an equivalent for the Agreement of the 18th April a rectification of the frontier east and west of Lake Scutari, comprising Dulcigno. The note stated that this arrangement had the incontestable advantage of leaving no doubt as to the possibility of its execution, and that, moreover, in order to increase the favourable chances which this proposed exchange of territory presented from this point of view, it would be in the interests of the Porte to grant to the Albanians of the Province of Scutari administrative arrangements which, while maintaining their connection with the Ottoman Empire, would sufficiently satisfy their legitimate aspirations. As the Porte still continued bound by its previous engagements until the new arrangement had been completely carried out, if it refused to consent to the last proposal, it would be under the necessity of immediately fulfilling its obligations under the Agreement of the 18th April.

On the 15th July the Porte replied that it was resolved to use, as far as possible, every means to promptly execute the Agreement of the 18th April. At the same time, it was ready to take into consideration the arrangement proposed by the Ambassadors, although it was surrounded by difficulties. According to the reports received by the Turkish authorities, the Montenegrins were willing to consent to the greater part of the cession under the April Agreement, and the Porte proposed that this part should be surrendered, and compensation for the remainder given in the Dulcigno district, excluding the town of Dulcigno, which was inhabited by Mussulman Albanians.

With regard to the administrative arrangements for the Albanians of the Province of Scutari, Abédine Pasha observed that the inhabitants of that province had shown themselves satisfied with their condition, and had never thought of asking the Porte for any privileges beyond those which they already enjoyed. Moreover, the Turkish Government was at the time preparing, in accordance with the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, a Statute applicable to all the provinces of European Turkey, the advantages of which would of course be extended to Albania.

Your Excellency and your colleagues informed the Porte, in the collective note of the 3rd August, that the Powers could not accept these proposals as satisfactory or agree to a continuance of the system of postponement which had led to the actual situation, and were under the necessity of urging the Ottoman Government to put an end to it. After further recommending the cession of Dulcigno as most in conformity with the interests of the Porte, and as being the arrangement most advantageous for all parties, the note proceeded to state that, in case the Porte preferred to execute the engagements taken under the Agreement of the 18th April, it was warned that if, at the expiration of a delay of three weeks, the Agreement had not been fully carried out, the Powers would expect it to join them in assisting the Prince of Montenegro to take possession by force of the Dulcigno district, in order to give effect to the alternative plan proposed in the note of the 26th June.

On the 9th August the Ambassadors communicated unofficially a memorandum to the Porte, explaining in detail the new frontier-line proposed, including the cession to the east of the Lake of Scutari, as well as the district around Dulcigno, in the terms recommended by Mr. Green and the Austrian Consul-General.

On examining this memorandum, the Turkish Minister stated that it involved the cession of Dinosi and some part of the Gruda district in the occupation of the Albanians, and on the 12th Abédine Pasha went round to the Ambassadors to announce to them that the Turkish Government would accept the Dulcigno proposal on two conditions:—

1. That Dinosi should not be included in the cession.
2. That further delay should be granted.

On the following day the Ambassadors addressed a *note verbale* to the Porte requesting that they might be informed officially of the resolution at which the Porte had arrived.

On the 18th August the Porte replied to the collective note of the 3rd that it consented in principle to the cession of Dulcigno to Montenegro, and that as regards the east of the Lake of Scutari on the side of Podgoritza, it was ready to conclude a Convention to the effect that the frontier should be drawn according to the points indicated in the Treaty of Berlin. It, at the same time, requested that the

delay of twenty-one days should be prolonged for some weeks. If the Powers did not accept the proposals the Turkish Government would be unable to join in any way in assisting Montenegro to occupy Dulcigno by force. In agreeing to the cession of Dulcigno the Porte desired to give a new proof of its deference to the counsels of Europe, and thus remove every reason for taking extreme measures.

On the 23rd August Abédine Pasha made a further communication, stating that while adhering to the cession of Dulcigno and its environs, as desired by the Powers, the Porte was compelled to reserve the cession of Gruda and Dinosi, and on the 2nd September the Porte sent in another note declaring that the consent of the Albanians to the cession of Dulcigno could not be obtained unless the *status quo* were agreed to for the definition of the frontier to the east of the lake.

On the 14th September, the Porte having failed to do anything to carry out its engagements, the allied fleets were assembled at Ragusa.

The desire of Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers has been to bring about a conclusive settlement of the frontier, and with this object they had proposed a line east of the lake which would meet the recommendations of the Frontier Commission by establishing a boundary which could be permanently maintained, but they had not sought to include territory which would give rise to unnecessary difficulties. They were accordingly prepared to give way to the Porte in regard to Dinosi, which they were advised was not really necessary to be occupied as a defensive position by Montenegro. Your Excellency and your colleagues were therefore authorized to address a collective note to the Porte on the 15th September, in the following terms:—

"The Powers, appreciating the motives alleged by the Porte for preserving the district of Gruda in its entirety to Albania, are disposed to accept the reservation made in its note of the 18th of August, in so far as concerns Dinosi and its territory. They can, however, admit no other interpretation as regards the extent of the territory of Gruda than that adopted by the majority of the European Commission for the delimitation of Montenegro. It is therefore understood that the line of demarcation proposed for the districts to the east of the Lake of Scutari proposed by the collective note of the 3rd August last, will be maintained in all its extent with the exception of the territory of Dinosi, as indicated on a map annexe to the present communication.

"It is equally understood that in case the arrangement in question is not promptly carried into execution, the compromise now agreed to by the Powers with regard to Dinosi would be annulled.

"In informing the Porte of the above, the Powers represented by the Undersigned observe that by immediately proceeding to the effectual surrender of the territories conferred on Montenegro by the present arrangement, with the exception of that of Dinosi, the Porte would give a proof of the sincerity of its intentions, for which the Powers would be disposed to give it credit.

"In return for this cession of Dinosi to Turkey, Dulcigno should be surrendered immediately and pacifically, and, in the contrary case, Montenegro should resume her claim upon Dinosi."

This collective note was crossed by a note from the Porte of the same date, in which the Porte stated that the prompt execution of the instructions received by the Turkish Commander for the surrender of Dulcigno depended on the Turkish Government receiving assurances that the Powers would abandon the naval demonstration in case of the surrender of that town; that the religion, life, and property of the inhabitants of the towns ceded should be respected, and that the line of frontier previously traced on the side of Podgoritza for the surrender of Dulcigno should be accepted by the Powers.

On the 23rd September the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires informed me that the Austrian Government had given the Turkish Ambassador at Vienna the following answer to the three questions in the Turkish Circular. He was to say that the Ambassadors at Constantinople had already agreed to a formula respecting the rights of Mussulmans and Catholics:—As to the naval demonstration, the Commander-in-chief was, on that very day, sending Riza Pasha a summons to surrender Dulcigno, and in case he did not do so, the action of the Powers would commence in three days:—One month having elapsed from the expiration of the delay fixed in the note of the 3rd August, and the Porte not having seriously availed itself of this delay, but having continually brought up dilatory proposals, it alone must bear the responsibility for the consequences resulting from the non-execution of the surrender:—Concerning the demarcation line eastwards from Lake Scutari, the Austrian Government were not

aware of any line previously agreed upon with regard to the *status quo*. They knew of no other line than that described in the last collective note to the Porte, and they must insist upon its execution.

I informed your Excellency that you might return a similar answer; but, without waiting for the reply of the Powers, the Porte had communicated to the Ambassadors a further note on the 22nd September, acknowleding the receipt of the collective note of the 15th September, and stating that the Porte had accepted the proposal for the surrender of Dulcigno; but that fresh difficulties had arisen and agitation among the local population, while the Powers had determined on a naval demonstration, and that the Porte consequently found itself compelled to make the surrender of Dulcigno contingent on its receiving formal and official assurances:—1. That the Powers would abandon all idea of a naval demonstration upon any question whatever, both at present and for the future. 2. That the property, life, honour, and all other rights of the inhabitants who desired to emigrate should be respected as well as the property, life, honour, and above all, religion and other rights, of those who determined to remain. 3. That the Powers would accept the *status quo* proposed by the Porte and would make no further demands of any kind with regard to Montenegro.

Your Excellency is aware that when the naval demonstration was first contemplated Her Majesty's Government had proposed that under certain contingencies the Admirals should be instructed to enter, through the Consuls-General, into direct communication with the leaders of the Albanian clans, in order to explain to them the situation and ascertain their views of the local administrative reforms which would best be adopted for their respective districts, and the grant of which would compensate them for any disadvantage which they might apprehend from the proposed settlement of the frontier. Objections being entertained to this proposal, it has not been proceeded with, and was not included in the Admiral's instructions.

Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, Her Majesty's Commissioner on the Eastern Roumelian Commission, then in session under the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, was however informed of the recommendations of the British and Austrian Consuls-General, and a scheme for the administration of the Sandjak of Scutari, in the sense of these recommendations, was prepared and presented to the Commission by the Austrian and French Commissioners. The Commissioners were unanimous that the General Provincial Statute which had been prepared was not applicable to some parts of Albania; but the Russian Commissioner, for the reasons stated by him at the time, was unable to accept this scheme without instructions. The other Commissioners adopted it, and recommended it to the Porte, adding that they would wish that in introducing the new Provincial Statute into other parts of Albania regard should equally be had to the immunities of the mountain districts beyond the limits of the Sandjak of Scutari, and especially to the immunities of the Chimara. The Commissioners also saw no objection to the Albanian districts being united in a single vilayet.

In supporting these proposals, Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice, with the concurrence of all the other Commissioners, stated that the Commission ought not to separate without having given this tangible proof to the Albanians that the Powers were concerned for their welfare.

It would be very desirable that some opportunity should be taken to make the Albanians acquainted with the interest that has thus been taken by the Powers in the improvement of their local administration, and in securing to them their ancient privileges and immunities. One advantage of the Dulcigno arrangement is, that it avoids interfering with the organization of the mountain clans, and as the free navigation of the Boyana is already secured to Montenegro by Treaty, it practically affects the Albanians as little as possible.

The note of the 22nd September has completely changed the situation so far as the acquiescence of the Albanians is concerned. It has been apparent throughout all these transactions that the Turkish authorities, while professing to be unable to overcome the resistance of the Albanians, have been stimulating it, and making use of the loyalty of the Albanians to the Sultan as a means of delaying the settlement, not only of this frontier question, but of the other questions pending with the Porte which the Sultan and his advisers are doing their utmost to evade. If the Albanians knew what was really taking place they would probably realize this for themselves, now that the Porte has declared that it makes the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier depend, not upon Albanian interests, but upon an assurance from the Powers that they will abandon any future naval demonstration upon any question whatever.

The consequence of this note has been that Riza Pasha has refused to surrender

Dulcigno, and that he has warned the Prince of Montenegro that any advance on his part will be considered as an act of hostility, and that force will be repulsed by force, whereupon the Prince has requested the Powers to inform him if in this conflict he may count upon political and military support more efficacious than that of a naval demonstration in its present limits.

The Ambassadors have replied on the 26th September, in a collective note, to the conditions required by the Porte in the note of the 22nd, that the first condition cannot be accepted, as no Power can consent to alienate or limit its inherent sovereign right to make use of its forces whenever it thinks necessary, and that all the Cabinets reserve to themselves in that respect entire liberty of appreciation and action; that the Powers accept the second condition, which has already been anticipated by the XXVIIth and XXXth Articles of the Treaty of Berlin, and are ready to formulate and complete the guarantees by a special declaration, and that the Powers must maintain the frontier-line indicated in the collective note of the 15th September, though they willingly agree, when the Porte has accepted and executed the conditions therein mentioned, not to demand any other territorial concession in favour of Montenegro.

The note further states that the Powers protest unanimously against the resistance of the Porte to their legitimate demands, and that the Turkish Government must bear all the responsibility for the consequences which may ensue.

This note has been entirely approved by Her Majesty's Government, as well as the *Pro-memorid* which your Excellency has informed me was this day delivered to the Porte, and in which the Ambassadors state that they have taken note of the verbal declaration made by the Sultan through Artin Effendi announcing the resolution of His Majesty to settle the question definitively by the 3rd October, and express the firm confidence that this settlement will include the immediate surrender of Dulcigno, and the dispatch of instructions accordingly to Riza Pasha.

Her Majesty's Government cannot believe that the Sultan can seriously intend to refuse to settle the Montenegrin frontier, and they consider that the gravity of the situation arises, not so much from the immediate difficulty respecting the surrender of Dulcigno, as from the determination shown by the Sultan and his Ministers throughout all these negotiations to avoid, by procrastination, the execution of the engagements of the Porte under the Treaty of Berlin.

The Treaty Powers have done all they could to facilitate the settlement of this frontier question. After the Treaty of Berlin the Prince of Montenegro had consented to evacuate Dulcigno without waiting for the complete execution of the Treaty by the surrender of Gusinjé and Plava. When the Porte declared itself unable to carry out this surrender, the Powers consented to the substitution of the agreement signed between the Porte and the Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires on the 12th April, and when the Turkish authorities failed to execute this in good faith, and the Porte again declared that it encountered great difficulties in carrying it out, the Powers proposed an arrangement, the execution of which could be attended with no difficulties. When the Porte represented that the cession of Dinosi would prevent the arrangement from being acquiesced in by the Albanians, the Powers again modified their proposals, and agreed to the district around Dinosi being retained by Turkey.

All these concessions have hitherto been unavailing, and now the Porte withdraws from its assent to the surrender of Dulcigno unless the Powers will agree to conditions which it was obvious that the Powers could not accept.

The settlement of this frontier is of the utmost importance to the Porte, as, until it has been accomplished, there can be no prospect of this part of European Turkey being reduced to order; and as your Excellency has on several occasions pointed out, the condition of the Vilayet of Prisrend is a standing danger to Turkey, since the assassination and oppression of the Christians and of all who show any resistance to the exactions of the armed gangs who infest the country in the name of the Albanian League may at any time provoke an insurrection or an appeal to foreign intervention.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 55.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 545. Extender.)

Foreign Office, October 2, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have now received from Captain Sale the full text of Riza Pasha's letter to the Montenegrin Commander.

The note does not say, as at first appeared from the telegraphic information received from Ragusa, which was repeated to your Excellency on the 27th ultimo, that an advance by the Montenegrin troops would be considered as an act or declaration of war against the Porte; but that he would consider as an act of hostility any military operation undertaken before the pending negotiations between the Great Powers and the Porte had had a satisfactory result, and before he should have received orders to communicate their result to the Montenegrin Commander; and further, that he should repel force by force.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 56.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 546. Extender.)

Foreign Office, October 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 279 of the 1st instant, giving the text of a *Pró-memoria* which the Ambassadors of the Great Powers at Constantinople have decided to present to the Porte in reply to the Sultan's message respecting the cession of Dulcigno, which was communicated to me in your Excellency's telegram No. 264 of the 28th ultimo, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve of your having agreed to the presentation of this memorandum.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 57.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 644. Very Confidential. Extender.)

Foreign Office, October 2, 1880.

Sir,

IN the conversations which I had yesterday afternoon with the German Ambassador and Austrian Chargé d'Affaires, which will be found recorded in my despatch No. 642, marked Very Confidential, sent to you last night by special messenger, viâ Berlin, I suggested to Count Münster and to M. de Hengelmüller the various means by which pressure could be brought to bear upon the Porte for the settlement of the outstanding questions. I asked whether the Austrian Government might not guarantee the frontier of Montenegro, while a force from the ships, or even some troops, of which the other Powers would not be jealous, were landed.

I said that without actual war resort might be had to reprisals, or the seizure, as a material guarantee, of some place which would be inconvenient to the Porte, without being likely to excite the populations; or the naval demonstration might be extended to places which would be useful for the settlement of the Greek frontier. Any of these undertaken by the combined Powers would have an effect. I added that Her Majesty's Government would not shrink from responsibility in applying pressure, but they wished it to be done in the most judicious way, and by a combination of the Powers. I stated that I was making no proposal, but merely wished to put forward suggestions as substitutes for that which perhaps was the most efficacious, viz., a demonstration at Constantinople, but which might be accompanied by grave consequences.

I have to request your Excellency to endeavour to obtain some answer from Baron Haymerle.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Mr. Plunkett (No. 500), Lord Lyons (No. 1315), Mr. Macdonell (No. 536), Lord Odo Russell (No. 633), and Sir H. Elliot (No. 645).

No. 58.

Earl Granville to Mr. White.

(No. 89.)

Foreign Office, October 2, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to your despatch No. 121 of the 4th ultimo relative to the ill-effect of the delay in settling the frontier between Roumania and Bulgaria in the vicinity of Silistria, I have to state that the delay appears to be owing to the omission of the Porte to give its formal sanction to the acts elaborated by the various Boundary Commissions instituted in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin. The other Powers have given their sanction to these acts by an exchange of notes, and as soon as the adhesion of the Porte has been notified the necessary communications will be made to the States directly interested.

I have instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to call the Porte's attention to the matter, and to urge them to notify their adhesion without further delay.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 59.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 124.)

Foreign Office, October 2, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the advice you gave to the Montenegrin Government, as reported in your despatch No. 300 of the 9th ultimo, to complete their arrangements for occupying the territory assigned to them, so that they should be ready to advance their troops without delay should the Turks resolve to comply with the wishes of the Powers.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 60.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1314. Extender.)

Foreign Office, October 2, 1880.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Government are anxious that your Excellency should at once ascertain what are the views of the French Government with regard to the question of the Greek frontier, and whether they are disposed to continue the initiative which M. de Freycinet assumed.

In making this inquiry your Excellency is authorized to assure M. B. de St. Hilaire that Her Majesty's Government are desirous of co-operating with the French Government to the fullest extent.

The substance of the above was telegraphed to your Excellency to-day.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 61.

*Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 1319. Extender.)

Foreign Office, October 2, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that the Ambassadors of the five Powers at Constantinople have agreed to give to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs a *pro-memoriâ*, of which the following is a translation, with reference to the undertaking of the Sultan to propose a definite settlement for the Montenegrin frontier question by the 3rd instant:—

* Also to Lord Odo Russell (No. 634), Sir H. Elliot (No. 646), Mr. Plunkett (No. 501), and Mr. Macdonell (No. 537).

"Ambassadors have informed their Governments of communication made to them by Artin Effendi in the name of the Sultan. They take note of the resolution announced by His Majesty to settle definitely question with the briefest delay, that is to say, by Sunday, the 3rd October, and they express their firm confidence that this settlement will include the immediate surrender of Dulcigno, and the despatch of instructions accordingly to Riza Pasha."

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 62.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3, 1·15 P.M.)

(No. 110.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October 3, 1880, 12·30 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 525.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs declines to take any initiative with regard to Greek question, and is not willing to discuss it with any one Power separately.

He declares that the deliberate intention of the French Government is to adhere to the concert of the Powers, but not to take any lead; that they are decidedly of opinion that Montenegrin, Greek, and Armenian questions should be now treated as one whole; that they will carefully consider any proposals which may be made by other Powers for settling them, but that they will not incur any risk of being drawn into a war.

I will write by post this evening.

M. Gambetta is in Switzerland.

No. 63.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3, 4·45 P.M.)

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October 3, 1880, noon.*

I HAVE received a *note verbale* from the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, which has been also addressed to the other foreign Representatives, pointing out that the clandestine landing in Northern Albania of troops, arms, and stores from Austrian packet from Constantinople confirms the fears of Principality that the Porte has no real intention of surrendering the ceded territory, as no augmentation of force is required for that purpose.

The Principality protests against the concentration of a Turkish army on its frontier which is unnecessary for peace and dangerous in case of a conflict. It declares also that it is obliged to keep up the whole of its military strength, not on account of the Albanian bands, but as a precaution against the said army, whose Commander has already identified his Government with the cause of the bands assembled near Dulcigno.

Montenegrin Government prays the Great Powers to prevent the Porte from augmenting its strength in Albania, and put an end to preparations which may [? turn] present difficulties into a real war.

I learn that, notwithstanding the proclamation of a state of siege at Scutari, Riza Pasha allows the Albanian Committee to exercise its authority as before.

(Sent to Admiral and Therapia.)

No. 64.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3, 7·43 P.M.)

(No. 116.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October 3, 1880, 4 P.M.*

I HEAR that Riza Pasha continues to express himself as capable of surrendering Dulcigno immediately he receives orders to that effect from the Porte.

(Sent to Admiral and Constantinople.)

No. 65.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3, 6 P.M.)

(No. 164.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 3, 1880, 5·30 P.M.*

IN reply to a question in the Hungarian Chamber yesterday about the naval demonstration, the Hungarian Minister answered that the matter was one relating to the observance of a European Treaty. The Powers, by the different delays that they had allowed to the Porte, had proved that none of them wished for war with Turkey, and the policy of the Imperial-Royal Government had been guided by a wish to maintain the European concert as long as possible in the interest of peace.

No. 66.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 148.)
My Lord, *Sophia, September 14, 1880.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 12 of the 11th instant, I applied for an audience of the Prince of Bulgaria, in order to point out to His Highness how much public opinion in England would be influenced against Bulgaria if a loan were to be made by this Principality to Eastern Roumelia.

In the interview which I had with His Highness on the afternoon of the 12th instant, I said that I thought it my duty to address myself directly to His Highness, as M. Zancoff had informed me that there was absolutely no truth in the report that a loan was about to be made, that no application had been made by Eastern Roumelia, and that even if an application had been made it would be refused.

His Highness said that it was true that no formal demand had been made by the Government of Eastern Roumelia, but that the negotiations had been carried on between M. Strausky, the Eastern Roumelian Director of Finance, and M. Karaveloff, the Bulgarian Minister of Finance. His Highness was personally strongly opposed to the loan, as it was evident that Eastern Roumelia would not be in a position to repay it. M. Zancoff was also opposed to it, but if the National Assembly chose to vote it, His Highness would have no power, under the Constitution, to prevent its being made. He believed that the money was wanted for the payment of the employés in Eastern Roumelia, whose salaries were very much in arrear, and not for insurrectionary purposes in Macedonia, and he thought that a very small portion, if indeed any of it, would be devoted to Macedonia. In conclusion, His Highness authorized me to inform your Lordship that, if the loan were made at all, it would be made against his will, and in spite of his objections.

On the following day I had an interview with M. Zancoff, who gave me the following account of what had taken place. M. Strausky had made an application to the Bank of Bulgaria for the loan, the Bank had applied to M. Karaveloff to know whether the loan was to be made, and had pointed out that, as they had not sufficient money in hand, it would be necessary for the Bulgarian Government to furnish them with funds if they decided to advance the money. M. Karaveloff submitted the question to the Council of Ministers, who had decided that the application should be refused, and M. Zancoff read me a letter which had been addressed to M. Karaveloff, instructing him to inform the Bank that the loan was not to be made.

I had the honour to inform your Lordship of the result of my conversations with the Prince and with M. Zancoff by my telegrams Nos. 10 and 11 of the 12th and 13th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 67.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 149. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, September 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a confidential despatch which I have received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Rustchuk reporting information which

he has received respecting the purchase of soldiers' boots for the Bulgarian army, and the expected arrival next week of arms and ammunition at that place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Acting Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Rustchuk, September* 11, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that I have lately obtained the following information:

That there are now in depôt here 40,000 pairs of soldiers' boots.

That negotiations are in progress to furnish 100,000 new pairs of soldiers' boots.

That up to the present 70,000 rifles have been brought from Russia: this is very slightly under the figures I have already given.

That about a month ago, the contractor was pressed to hasten the delivery of the boots ordered, as circumstances might arrive which would make it impossible to get them into the country. Note they come from Constantinople.

That the Prince has examined the patterns, and has ordered or will order 50,000 or 60,000 new Berdan rifles.

That next week we shall have another arrival of arms and ammunition.

Finally, that having 6,000 pairs of boots which were not wanted here, the contractor was told that they might be taken at Shumla, but that before anything could be decided with regard to Shumla, he must arrange matters with the Russian Government, as the force at Shumla did not depend on the Bulgarian Ministry of War, but received its orders from St. Petersburgh.

For some time considerable activity has been shown in repairing and remodelling an old Turkish building which was offices, and now is to be a workshop principally for repairing rifles.

I may as well add that the chief Captain of the fleet has erected a flagstaff at his house, where he flies the Russian tricolour every Sunday and fête day. That at the arsenal the flag is also Russian, white with four anchors in black, and that the Captain of the port at Silistria hoists a Russian tricolour, while the custom-house almost next door flies a Bulgarian one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 68.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 150.)
My Lord, *Sophia, September* 20, 1880.

IN the note which M. Zancoff addressed to the foreign Agents at Sophia on the 19th July on the subject of the treatment of the Turks in Bulgaria, his Excellency drew attention to the justice and generosity of the measures which had been adopted with regard to the property of Mussulmans at Sophia which had been sold by the Municipality, according to which the proprietors were to receive the price realized by the sale, with a deduction of 20 per cent. "pour les dépenses d'amélioration faites par la Municipalité." It was therefore with some surprise that I learnt from M. Falanga, the representative of a Turkish proprietor in Sophia, that the Municipality had retained 40 instead of 20 per cent. upon the price of the sale which had been made, and had in addition to that deducted the expenses for repairs which had been made. The property in question had been sold by the Municipality for 12,020 fr., and the amount which M. Falanga ought to have received would, according to the statements contained in M. Zancoff's note, amount to 9,616 fr., instead of which he has only received 4,283 fr.; the account being made up as follows:—

	Frs.
Realized by sale	12,020
Estimated value to be deducted from amount realized by sale in calculating the percentage	1,888
	10,132
	40
40 per cent. retained by the Municipality..	4,052·80
Expense of building a wall and repairs to the house	3,685
	7,737
	12,020
	7,737
Sum paid	4,283

I have not failed to point out to M. Zancoff the difference that exists between the promise contained in his note and the action of the Municipality. His Excellency told me that the extra 20 per cent. was charged on account of the embellishment of the town, and that the amount had been fixed by a Commission composed principally of Turks; that it was always understood that the sums spent by the Municipality in repairing the houses belonging to Mussulmans should be repaid, and that the Turks themselves had agreed to this arrangement. I observed that his Excellency had led me to suppose by the wording of his note that the Turkish proprietors were to receive the amount which might be realized by the sale of their property *minus* 20 per cent. on account of the expenses which might have been incurred by the Municipality; that it appeared to me that the extra charge of 20 per cent. for the embellishment of the town would throw the whole cost of such embellishment upon the Turkish proprietors, and that in the present instance the proprietor had received less than half of what, according to his Excellency's note, he would have been entitled to.

His Excellency said that he would send me a copy of the Report of the Commission which had fixed the amount to be paid for the embellishment of the town; but although several days have elapsed he has not yet done so, and I have been informed that though it is true that the majority of the Commission was composed of Turks none of the Turkish members signed the Report.

In a conversation which I had subsequently with the Prince of Bulgaria I called His Highness' attention to this matter, and observed that it would be my duty to report to your Lordship the great difference which existed between the promises held out by M. Zancoff and the manner in which they had been executed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 69.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 151.)
My Lord, *Sophia, September* 21, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, inclosing a copy of a Report which I have received from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Rustchuk, with regard to the statements contained in certain Turkish documents which had been communicated to Sir H. Layard by Mr. Dillon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 69.

Mr. Lascelles to Mr. Goschen.

Sophia, September 10, 1880.

Sir, ON the receipt of Sir Henry Layard's despatch of the 27th May last, I requested the Acting British Vice-Consul at Rustchuk to make inquiries as to the statements contained in the Turkish documents inclosed in his Excellency's despatch; and I have

now the honour to inclose a copy of the Report which Mr. Dalziel has addressed to me on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 69.

Acting Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Rustchuk, August 12, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith the despatch of his Excellency Sir H. Layard of the 27th May, 1880, together with the original Turkish documents referred to and a translation of them into French, which I have procured with considerable difficulty; and I have now to state the result of my inquiries in accordance with your instructions.

The Turkish documents in question contain a series of complaints (twenty-one in number) of ill-treatment by Bulgarians.

All the acts complained of happened when I was in Britain on leave of absence. I found, however, that similar complaints were made to some of my colleagues; and it is the general opinion that the alleged acts of cruelty did take place, and that the statements regarding them are not exaggerated.

I had just got the translations completed and my inquiries made when the late changes in the Administration took place; and as soon as the new Prefect had got settled down to his work I thought it my duty to read to him the translations, and to ask him to furnish me with answers, if possible, showing what had been done by the authorities to punish the culpable.

The Prefect replied that, being newly-appointed and coming from a distance, he was entirely ignorant of all the circumstances, but that he would gladly make the necessary inquiries, and let me know the result as soon as possible. Accordingly, on Monday last he furnished me with the following reply, which I wrote down in pencil as it was told to me:—

Charges Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 relate to acts which took place in other districts not under his direction, and can only be answered by the authorities of these places.

No. 5. Robbery with assault. No information was given to the police, and nothing is known of it.

No. 6. Supposed to be the same act, related at greater length, as No. 12.

No. 7. Not in his district.

No. 8. Related at greater length as No. 20.

No. 9. The forcible abduction and violation of Hanifé. This woman has been brought here, and was seen by some of my colleagues; but they could make nothing out of her, as she would only stand with her face to the wall and cry. The case has been before the Court, and is still pending. The authorities admit the substantial accuracy of the statements as far as regards the gendarme Mehemed, and also a sergeant, but not of any commissioned officer.

No. 10. The outrageous conduct of a Montenegrin gendarme, Karadaghlé, towards the Moukhtar of Djilnevi is admitted, and the man has been punished by his officer with imprisonment for seven days and a fine, amount unknown. The schoolmaster (professor) who wrote the false statement admitted having done so, but said he only wrote to order, and knew nothing of the truth or falsehood of the statements.

No. 11, respecting the want of Turkish members to the "Davi Medjliss," is said to be because suitable Turks who speak Bulgarian cannot be found.

No. 12 or 6. The assault on Suleiman Aga is before the Tribunals, where it is likely to remain, as the brigands are unknown.

No. 13. The robbery of Tahir and Emner is in precisely the same position.

Nos. 14, 15, and 16 happened in other districts.

No. 17. The sack of the village of Kara-Mehmetlar and the robbery of Hafiz Emmin Effendi is admitted, but the brigands cannot be traced.

No. 18. The barefaced shop-breaking in broad daylight opposite the police office. Ditto, the police being perfectly powerless to discover the robbers.

No. 19. The escapade of the gendarme Georgie, culminating in the murder of Osman. Georgie has been dismissed the force, and is at large on bail; the police surgeon has certified that the death of Osman was caused by the beating he got, but

it is not thought there is sufficient evidence to prove the beating was administered by Georgie.

No. 20 or 8. The rape of Sebilé. The culprit having been tried was obliged to confess, but when the Court was about to pass sentence his advocate produced a declaration by the woman, with consent of her husband, that she was satisfied, and had now nothing to claim from him, whereupon the demands of justice also, it appears, were satisfied, for the Court dismissed the case.

No. 21. The affair of Hadji Hassan and the two gendarmes. It is not correct to say that the Court did not punish the police; they were imprisoned for several days, and only liberated on the prayer of Hadji Hassan himself, which had possibly been extorted from him by some brother gendarmes, or bought, which is much the same.

In addition to the cases mentioned in the Turkish petition, I thought it advisable to ask the Prefect concerning another outrage of which I was cognizant, viz., the raid of Parashkeva, son of Hadji Petro, accompanied by about 200 persons from here, on the village of Keulikli, near Tutrukan, on the 8th August, 1879; arrived there, they tied about thirty Turks, laid them down on the ground, and thrashed them unmercifully, so that one, named Idris, afterwards died in Rustchuk hospital.

Note.—Parashkeva has been, and I believe still is, a clerk in the Governor's office, and it is thought that he was executing a vengeance for some old story. The Prefect informs me that it is quite untrue that Parashkeva had anything to do with this, or that his band consisted of Rustchuk young men; in fact, the outrage was committed by Turks disguised as Bulgars, and three of them whose names he gave me, though I did not think it worth while to write them down, are now in prison, sentenced to fifteen years each.

I don't pretend to know anything personally of the facts, but I have been told by persons in every way worthy of credit, and whose information was got from Bulgarian sources, that the affair did take place as I have related it. Perhaps amongst the band were some Turks, and they have been selected as victims; or perhaps three perfectly innocent Turks have been taken, for I scarcely think it likely that Turks would ally themselves with Bulgars for such a purpose; but, at any rate, the severity of their sentence contrasts unfavourably with those given at Nos. 10, 19, 20, and 21, when the culprits were Christians.

With regard to the outrages which took place in districts other than Rustchuk, I told the Prefect that I would not ask him to write for official information, being perfectly satisfied with the information he had given me concerning those in Rustchuk; this I hope you will approve, for I see no good object to be attained by procuring similar replies from Rasgrad, Tirnova, or Silistria.

The main facts apparent are that the administration of justice is infamous; and that the police are quite unable to discover the authors of any crime, unless the victim can himself point them out, and it is in such circumstances that the continual attempts are being made by the Government of Bulgaria to abolish the Capitulations.

Perhaps if some of the many Bulgarian newspapers could be induced to devote less space to high politics, and only a little to police reports, the action of a healthy public opinion might do good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 69.

French Translation of four Turkish Documents inclosed in Sir A. H. Layard's Despatch of May 27, 1880, to Mr. Lascelles.

AU district de Tirnova, avant un mois d'ici, quelques individus ayant entrés chez le nommé Ahmed Oglou, on lui a brûlé les pieds et les mains avec un fer chauffé, et pris l'argent qu'il avait. Le Moukhtar Bulgare du village de Sucina ayant pris des mesures nécessaires, a arrêté et envoyé à Tirnova deux Bulgares qui ont commis cette faute. On ne sait pour quelle raison, le Gouvernement les a laissés libres sans les avoir punis.

2. Au village d'Okcilar (district de Tirnova) quelques vagabonds sont entrés chez le nommé Nizam Oglou Ahmed, et cassant la porte de sa maison, lui ont pris toute la possession, et l'ont battu tellement qu'il est mort après huit jours.

3. Au village d'Armutli (district de Tirnova) on est entré chez un Ture, et l'ayant

battu comme il faut, lui ont pris les 2,500 piastres, l'argent de ses deux maisons qu'il avait vendues quelques jours avant.

4. Au village de Kodjabunar (district de Rasgrad) quelques individus entrant pendant la nuit chez le nommé Hafib Oglou Ahmed, après être soulfert assez de temps lui et sa famille, leur ont pris les 100 piastres, ce qu'ils avaient.

A Bekir Baska (district de Roustchouk), des villageois Turcs, dès qu'ils venaient à Roustchouk en famille, une bande de Bulgares leur ont occupé le chemin, et après les avoir battus gravement, ont pris 500 piastres du nommé Keutchek Oglou Mustafa, et 500 piastres du nommé Ibrahim.

6. Au village de Besbunar (district de Roustchouk) quelques individus, entrant pendant la nuit chez le nommé Suleiman, ont blessé lui et sa femme à coups de couteau, et pris une somme de 1,700 piastres, toute la fortune ils avaient.

7. Au village de Teherkovna (district de Rasgrad), dix personnes venant chez le nommé Kourd Oglou Hadji Ismail, l'ont gravement battu, avec sa femme, mais ils sont vivants.

8. Deux Bulgares du village de Djélik Bekdjési (district de Rasgrad), venaient à cheval au village de Kadselova (district de Roustchouk). A leur arrivée ils sont allés dans un cabaret, et, après y avoir passé quelque temps, ils remontent à cheval et se dirigent vers les femmes Turques qui ramassaient du blé dans les champs aux environs de ce village. L'un de ces deux amis descendant de son cheval le laisse à l'autre, en lui disant, "Tiens mon cheval, je vais baiser l'une de ces femmes." Aussitôt il saisit l'une des femmes, et après avoir fait ce qu'il avait mis dans son but, il monte sur son cheval et ils s'en vont. Cette femme devenant enceinte, se trouve actuellement malade au lit à cause de sa peur et de la honte.

9. Environ cinq semaines avant d'ici, un jour de Samedi, mon mari, Ahmed, s'était rendu au village de Kassemlar pour prendre quelques mesures de blé que quelqu'un de ce village lui devait. Je viens d'entendre qu'aussitôt arrivé, les gendarmes de ce village l'ont saisi et mis en prison. Le quatrième jour un gendarme de Kassemlar, nommé Renardje Mehmed, vient à notre village, et me dit: "Le Chef des gendarmes de Kassemlar a à vous demander quelque chose, et il faut que vous y veniez avec moi." Je lui réponds, "Je ne peux pas aller nulle part si mon mari n'est pas avec moi;" puis voulant me prendre par force, j'ai dû y aller avec mon frère, et c'était à 1 heure et demie à la Turque que nous sommes entrés au village de Kassemlar, et il nous a conduit chez le nommé Eyoub, habitant de ce village, et pas à la police. Après y avoir resté quelques minutes le gendarme dit à mon frère, "Mon cher Iliaz, allez-vous-en coucher dans une autre maison du village; moi, je vais conduire votre sœur dans le harem de la propriétaire de ma maison," et il l'a congédié. Après que mon frère est parti ce gendarme, nommé Renardje Mehmed, m'a introduit dans la chambre, et me dit: "Je désire vous prendre; voulez-vous vous marier avec moi?" "Je suis contente de mon mari," je lui ai répondu; "c'est pour cela que vous m'avez forcée de venir ici." Aussitôt que j'ai fini ces paroles, un officier de gendarmes, où barbe noire, et de taille moyenne, et des épaulettes dorées sur ses dos, entre dans la chambre où je suis et me dit, "Vous serez exilée; ce gendarme Mehmed veut vous prendre; si vous consentez, vous serez sauvée." "Je ne le consentirai jamais," je lui ai dit, et j'ai commencé à pleurer. Le gendarme Mehmed, sortant de la chambre, ferme la porte; c'était à 3 heures du soir à la Turque que je me trouvais dans un triste état. Dans cette tristesse, commençant à me battre et à me faire souffrir, et rompant par force mon honneur, m'a baisé enfin, et il est sorti de la chambre.

Après lui, un autre officier, en taille longue et de barbe châtain, pas des épaulettes aux dos, entre dans la chambre, et fait par force la même chose que le premier a fait, et sort; puis vient le gendarme Mehmed et fait la même chose, et puis me conduit dans le haremlik de la propriétaire de la maison, où j'ai passé la nuit. Le lendemain, le gendarme Mehmed vient, et me dit, "Je vous apporterai à la police; soyez prête." Pendant la journée personne n'est venu me prendre. Le soir à 2 heures à la Turque, venant dans la carrière du haremlik, me fait appeler, et je vais voir ce qu'il désirait; il me dit, "Allons, M. mon Chef vous demande." Je lui ai répondu, "Pendant la nuit je ne peux pas aller nulle part." Aussitôt il entre dans la chambre, et par des coups et des reproches, me saisissant le bras, m'a conduit dans la même chambre où nous étions le soir, et me dit: "Ne faites pas de bruit, si vous voulez qu'on ne vous tue pas." Ces deux officiers sont entrés de nouveau dans la chambre, l'un après l'autre, faisant les mêmes démarches que le soir passé; puis le gendarme Mehmed me prenant de la chambre, m'a conduite dans le même haremlik où j'étais la nuit passée. Le lendemain le susdit gendarme vient de bonheur me dire que la police me demande, et me prenant ensemble me conduit d'abord à Kassemlar, chez la propriétaire de la maison

où mon frère avait logé; le même jour, montant sur un chariot, qui allait à notre village, avec quelques dames que je les connais, je me suis rendue au village. Ces démarches brutales que ces gens ont faits envers moi, qui touchent à ma santé et à mon honneur, et la honte et la peur que j'ai eu, m'ont fait tomber malade, gardant dix-huit jours le lit.

Donc de pleins pouvoirs je veux que les Règlements du Tribunal soient mis en vigueur envers ces gens-là qui ont rompu l'honneur d'une femme, et plus celui du Gouvernement.

(Signé) HANIFÉ (épouse du nommé Ahmed Toutrakan Kazale).

Le $\frac{20\text{ Avril}}{1^{\text{er}}\text{ Mai}}$, 1880.

10. Le dix-septième jour du mois de Choubat, le Moukhtar Hussein, du village Djilnevi (district Roustchouk), accompagné de quelques vieux Turcs, se trouvait dans sa chambre. Vers 2 heures et demie à la Turque un gendarme de Roustchouk, nommé Karadaghli, accompagné d'un autre gendarme et de quelques Bulgares du village, vient à la porte de la chambre du Moukhtar; ces deux gendarmes laissant les Bulgares du village dehors, entrent chez le Moukhtar, et commencent avec des reproches à battre les Turcs avec leurs sabres, leur disant que dans ce temps il est interdit de s'entretenir. Les pauvres vieux Turcs leur répondaient: "Messieurs, ne nous reprochez pas, et laissez nous tranquilles; nous avons la coutume de toujours attendre jusqu'à 3 heures à la Turque pour aider la police s'il arrive quelque chose, et ils prient aussi les Bulgares qui restaient dehors, leur disant, "Vous savez très-bien que nous devons attendre chaque nuit à ce temps; ne laissez pas donc nous faire battre sans aucun motif raisonnable. Sur ces paroles, les gendarmes et leurs accompagnés se retirent et s'en vont.

Le lendemain, de bonheur, lorsque le Moukhtar s'entretenait et parlait des choses qui se sont passées la nuit avec ses mêmes camarades, les susdits gendarmes, accompagnés de nouveau avec le Moukhtar Bulgare et d'une dizaine de Bulgares de ce village, viennent à la chambre du Moukhtar Turc ayant un papier à la main, commencent à écrire:—"Le Moukhtar Hussein Agha et ses accompagnés ont hier soir battu le gendarme Karadaghle, et le liant, lui ont arraché les épaulettes et pris son sabre." Ensuite ils veulent forcer le Moukhtar Turc à signer ce papier faux. Le Moukhtar lui répond:—"Monsieur, de pareilles choses n'ont pas eu lieu hier soir, que vous le savez très-bien; je ne pourrai jamais le signer." Le gendarme s'est retiré, et s'en est allé. Le Moukhtar Hussein Agha a envoyé au Tchaouch du village de Bélé un Rapport signé par de vieux Turcs, et d'une vingtaine de personnes lui communiquant le fait, ce qui a eu lieu à leur village la nuit passée. Le gendarme Karadghle aussitôt entend l'arrivée du Tchaouch de Bélé au village de Djilnevi, va avec son gendarme le trouver, et après avoir s'entretenu quelque temps avec lui, viennent ensemble chez le Moukhtar, et faisant appeler les gens qui accompagnaient la nuit passée le Moukhtar dans la chambre, et sans leur dire quelque chose, les battent comme il faut et les mettent en prison.

Vers 3 heures du matin à la Turque il les appelle de nouveau et leur dit: "Nous venons d'entendre qu'entre vous il y a un comité de neuf personnes; je veux absolument que ces gens soient découverts, et après les avoir battus une seconde fois, les jettent de nouveau en prison.

Vers 6 heures à la Turque il les appelle de nouveau, d'un côté lui et de l'autre côté les deux gendarmes et quelques Bulgares ont tellement battu une troisième fois, que le Moukhtar ne pouvant plus supporter à dû signer le papier que l'on avait écrit.

Le matin, liant les pieds et les mains du Moukhtar et de ses camarades, les envoient à Roustchouk. L'autorité de Roustchouk ayant constaté que ces gens ne sont pas fautifs les laissent libres et ne punit pas les gendarmes qui les ont tant battus et tourmentés.

11. L'autorité de Roustchouk avait choisi cinq membres Turcs.

En promettant que ces cinq individus seront appelé officiellement à leur fonction le 1er Avril; jusqu aujourd'hui on n'a pas encore reçu aucun avis officiel à ce sujet, et il ne se trouve aucun membre Turc au Tribunal.

12. Le sixième jour du mois d'Avril, vers 4 heures du soir à la Turque, une bande de vingt-cinq personnes vient au village de Bechpounar (Roustchouk) et trouvant la patrouille de la nuit, la force de leur montrer la maison où habitait le nommé Kara Mahmoud Oghlou et Suléiman Agha; ils y sont allés. L'une de ces vingt-cinq personnes, appelle Suléiman Agha de la fenêtre et Suléiman lui répond: "Qu'est-ce qu'il

y a ?" Aussitôt un gendarme entrant dans la chambre du Moukhtar fait sortir Suléiman Agha dehors; la susdite bande l'ayant saisi de suite le déshabillât et pris tout son habit sauf le pantalon, et lui liant les mains commencent à demander de l'argent. Suléiman leur répond: "Avant quelques jours d'ici j'ai prêté tout mon argent aux villageois et je n'ai actuellement aucun sou chez moi." Aussitôt l'un de ces gens entrant dans sa chambre trouve un coffre dans lequel il y avait un sac contenant 600 piastres et les prend. Pour comprendre s'il y a encore d'autre argent commencèrent à lui brûler le dos avec un fer chauffé et blesser les jambes par des coups de couteau, puis liant les mains des gens de la patrouille les laissent dans un bois un quart d'heure loin du village et ils se dirigent vers le village de Bélé. Après leur départ les hommes de la patrouille aidant l'un à l'autre et déliant leurs mains se retournent au village.

Quoique la langue de cette bande était la langue Turque, leur mauvaise prononciation et les vêtements qu'ils portaient comme ceux des Bachi-Bozouks Bulgares, certifient que c'étaient des Bulgares et pas des Turcs.

13. Le vingt-sixième jour du mois de Mars, les nommés Hafez Hodja Oghlou Tahir et Papourlou Eumer, habitant du village de Bekin vir Bafka, chargeant leur bagage dans leur chariot se rendaient à Roustchouk en famille, et les nommés Koutchek Oghlou Moustafa, Tchaker Ibrahim et Mesten les accompagnaient à pied. Pendant qu'ils étaient en route, huit personnes armées, en costume Bulgare, et qui parlaient en Turc, sortent du bois et se lancent vers eux.

Le nommé Mesten s'échappe et se sauve.

Les deux autres qui étaient à pied, ne pouvant pas trouver le moyen de s'échapper, tombent aux mains de ces gens qui, prenant 25 roubles de chacun, soit piastres 1,000, les laissent partir.

Quant aux hommes et femmes qui étaient dans les chariots, ils ont pris du coffre de Papourlou Eumer quelques yeurmilik altenen et quelques roubiés de 600 piastres et ses bagages en valeur de 7,600 piastres, puis cherchant les poches et les bagages de Tahir et de sa femme, ne trouvant rien et ne touchant à ses bagages aussi, ils se dirigent vers l'endroit d'où ils sont sortis.

14. Au village de Yeni Yayanlar (Rasgrad) quelques individus en costume et en langue Turque entrant pendant la journée chez le nommé Hadji Ahmed et saisissant lui et sa femme, leur ont mis les têtes près du feu et les ont chauffé et brûle de manière qu'ils sont devenus demi-morts, puis enlevant toute leur fortune et les bagages et les meubles de la maison, se sont retirés. La femme se trouve sous danger et Hadji Ahmed gravement malade.

15. A la même date, un jour de Vendredi, au village de Keletch, habité seulement par des Turcs et d'une distance de cinq heures loin de Rasgrad, une foule de personnes y arrivent et après avoir tourmenté et donné toute sorte de souffrances aux habitants, leur ont fait payer par force 300 livres Turques et ils sont partis.

16. La dix-huitième nuit du mois de Mars, vers 2 heures à la Turque, vingt-cinq personnes armées viennent au village de Bosna (Silistrie), habité seulement par des Turcs, et entrant chez les nommés Hadji Molla Ahmed, son gendre, Hussein Agha, et son voisin, Ahmed Agha, et après les avoir tourmentés assez de temps avec leurs familles, ont pris de Molla Ahmed 30 pols Impériaux, de roubiés et de mahmoudiés établis sur quatre cordes; de Hussein Agha, 3,500 piastres, et d'Ahmed Agha, une quantité de l'argent, quelques costumes d'homme et de femme, des coffres avec ce qu'ils contenaient, de meubles et d'autres meilleurs bagages qu'il y avait dans la maison, puis ils sont partis lançant des coups de fusil vers le ciel.

17. La treizième nuit du mois de Mars, au village de Kara Mehmetler (Roustchouk), habité par des Turcs seulement une bande de brigands entrant dans quelques maisons et après avoir enlevé leurs meubles et l'argent sont allés vers la maison où demeurait le Chef religieux, Hafez Emin Effendi, entrent dans sa chambre, prennent sa montre, les habits, les bagages qu'il y avait, et une somme de 426 piastres et 30 paras; l'argent de Radelek ramassé des recettes de ce mois et une somme de 1,000 piastres l'argent de ce Chef, qu'il avait dans son coffre, et puis ils sont partis.

Roustchouk.

18. Le premier jour du mois d'Avril, trois personnes en costume Européen entrent vers midi dans le magasin d'un changeur nommé Stambollou Oghlou pour faire changer de l'argent (ce magasin se trouve vis-à-vis de la police locale près du Consulat Russe, dans une rue la plus grande et la plus fréquentée de la ville et la place de va et vient des voitures et des gendarmes). Le changeur ouvrant sa caisse et au moment qu'il sortait

de l'argent, les trois susdites personnes se jettent sur lui, l'une fermant la bouche l'autre donnait des coups de couteau à la gorge du changeur, et la troisième s'occupait d'en enlever de l'argent. Heureusement les portes de la partie intérieure de la caisse où il y avait de l'or, n'étant pas ouvert, n'ont pu enlever qu'une somme de 200 roubles et blesser gravement le changeur, et puis ils sont partis sans être arrêtés par la police. Aux questions que l'autorité locale a fait au susdit changeur, il a pu à peine déclarer que d'après la prononciation de ces trois susdits gens, l'un devait être Allemand ou Autrichien et les deux autres Monténégrins ou Serbes.

19. Pour la recherche des bandes de voleurs et de vagabonds le gendarme Gheorgi, accompagné de vingt-cinq personnes, a été envoyé aux environs de Roustchouk par l'autorité locale. Le 29e jour du mois de Mars ces gens arrivaient au village de Urekler (Roustchouk) habité par des Turcs seulement et d'une distance de sept à huit heures loin de Roustchouk, ont pris quelque heures de repos dans une maison près de celle du nommé Solak Oglou Hassan, homme de famille et le Chef des habitants; le même jour à leur départ, le gendarme Gheorgi laissant la voie principale, il croise le Haremlik du susdit Hassan et sort d'une autre porte, la même chose est faite par les trois personnes de sa suite, et au moment qu'ils croisaient le Haremlik, Hassan, le propriétaire de la maison, leur dit: "Messieurs, vous savez très-bien qu'ici c'est la cour du Harem; notre religion ne permet pas de laisser entrer quelqu'un où il y a un Harem et de Namehram, et je vous en prie de ne pas le faire une autrefois." Après quelques minutes, le susdit gendarme Gheorgi, venant de nouveau au Haremlik, appelle Hassan, et après lui avoir donné quelques coups et des reproches le prend et le conduit à la chambre du Moukhtar. Le grand frère de Hassan, nommé Osman, et les vieux du village, nommés Daye Oglou Halil, Tsazli Oglou Bekir, Tatar Oglou, Abdul Aziz, et Salih Oglou Ahmed, les ont suivis, et après avoir compris que Hassan n'est pas fautif, priait le gendarme de le laisser libre. Le gendarme sans exaucer leurs paroles a arrêté aussitôt tous ceux qui étaient venus prier que Hassan soit libre en leur disant: "Il faut que vous restiez ici; j'ai des choses à vous demander." Le gendarme Gheorghi et ses compagnons, prenant ces susdits hommes, ont commencé à continuer leur chemin. Vers 4 heures du soir à la Turque ils arrivent au village de Lodjova (Roustchouk) et les installent dans une chambre sous la garde des Bulgares. Après quelque temps le gendarme Gheorgi et celui de ce village dont on ignore le nom entrent dans cette chambre et commencent à battre de coups de sabre et de fusil d'abord ceux qui étaient venus le prier pour Hassan. Ces gens par des cris regrettables criaient et leur priaient: "Ah! Messieurs, nous ne savons pas notre faute, ayez pitié de nous, faites vos questions, et si nous sommes fautifs c'est alors que vous aurez raison de nous battre et faire tout ce que vous voudrez."

Les gendarmes n'écoutant par leurs paroles et leurs cris, ont continué leurs démarches jusqu'à ce qu'ils se sont fatigués. Quant aux deux frères Hassan et Osman, le gendarme Gheorghi a ordonné à ses compagnons de les tenir par terre sur le visage et il a commencé à les battre de coups de canne et de fusil tellement et avec tant de force qu'il était obligé de prendre trois fois du repos jusqu'à ce qu'il a fini de les battre.

Le lendemain, jour de Dimanche, ôtant tous les habits d'Osman sauf le pantalon l'a battu encore une fois avec des cannes fines et quelques coups de fusil, et le retenant, ainsi que son frère Hassan, il renvoya le reste à leur village.

Jusqu'à Jeudi, retenant ces deux frères en prison cinq jours, le lendemain, Vendredi, voulant les conduire à Roustchouk, mais comme ils étaient devenus malades à force de coups et de punitions, ne pouvant plus marcher, les ont mis dans un chariot et ils se dirigèrent vers Roustchouk. Passant la nuit au village de Tchervenavoda (Roustchouk), le lendemain, Samedi, sont arrivés à Roustchouk, et les mirent en prison dans la cour du Caïmacamat.

Le lendemain, Dimanche, voyant que la maladie d'Osman s'aggrave, on l'envoie à l'hôpital; à peine une heure passée le pauvre Osman meurt, et sur cela on laisse libre son frère Hassan sans lui rien dire; ce pauvre aussi était tellement battu qu'il vomissait du sang de temps en temps, comme le certifient ceux qui l'ont vu.

20. Le 31 du mois de Mars, vers 8 heures à la Turque, au village de Kadselova (Roustchouk), une femme, nommée Sébilée, épouse de Ismaïl Pehlivan Ahmed, la fille de son voisin Molla Osman, nommée Fatmé, et âgé de 16 ans, et la fille de Daredje Ali nommée Fatmé, et âgée de 15 ans, au moment qu'elles ramassaient aux environs du village de la farine ("lopocha") deux Bulgares à l'âge de 30 ans, habitants du village de Djélkilik Yénikeuï, venant vers cette femme et jeunes filles, toutes trois commencèrent à filer; ces jeunes hommes Bulgares les poursuivant ne peuvent attraper que la femme et les jeunes filles se sont filées. L'un de ces Bulgares par des coups et par force a baisé

la susdite femme, et puis ils se dirigèrent vers leur village. Les filles et puis après la femme retournant à leur village racontent ces faits au Tchaouch du village nommé Kiro, aux Moukhtars Turc et Bulgare, et aux vieux du village. Aussitôt le Tchaouch, le Moukhtar Bulgare, et les vieux ont envoyé quelques hommes à Yénikeuï pour découvrir ces deux jeunes Bulgares et les apporter à Kadselova. Les habitants de Yénikeuï quoique ayant découvert ces deux jeunes gens Bulgares, ne les ont pas donné aux hommes envoyés de Kadselova, et deux heures après leur retour ils les ont envoyé à Kadselova avec quelques Bulgares de leur village, et ils se sont cachés chez un Bulgare sans que personne ne les ait vu. Aussitôt que le Tchaouch Kiro et les Moukhtars ont appris que ces deux Bulgares qu'on voulait découvrir étaient caché dans cette maison Bulgare, a envoyé de suite l'un de ses gendarmes pour les porter à lui. L'un de ces jeunes Bulgares avait pu trouver le moyen d'échapper; le gendarme qui est allé les apporter ne pouvant y trouver qu'une personne la prend et l'apporte au Tchaouch. Le Tchaouch le mêlant dans une dizaine de Bulgares du village a demandé à la susdite femme si elle pouvait connaître la personne qui l'a baisé. La femme regardant séparément sur les visages de chacun, elle montre de suite par son doigt et dit: "Voici ce jeune ennemi qui m'a brisé l'honneur, et c'était justement ce jeune Bulgare que ce gendarme a apporté." Le Tchaouch envoie cet homme à Roustchouk et on le met en prison. La femme, outre les blessures de coups de poignard qu'elle a reçu, elle a attrappé aussi une espèce de maladie de femme que ce Bulgare avait sur son membre, et depuis lors elle se trouve malade et de jour en jour sa maladie s'augmente.

Le 9 du mois d'Avril au village d'Arnavout (près de Roustchouk et district de Tirnova) le nommé Youssouf Oghlou Hadji Hassan, âgé environ de 60 ans, et le nommé Redjeb Oghlou Rachid, âgé de 35 ans, se montant dans deux chariots, venaient à Roustchouk avec leur famille et leurs bagages; le même jour arrivant à l'endroit nommé Gur Tchechmé, d'une distance de deux heures loin de Roustchouk, deux gendarmes cavaliers venant de côté de Roustchouk les approchent et leur demandent: "D'où venez-vous et où allez-vous?" Ils répondent, "Nous allons à Roustchouk pour partir pour Constantinople." Ces gendarmes, par de grands reproches, commencent à battre par leurs sabres le susdit Hadji Hassan, en lui disant, "Pourquoi vous mentez?" le pauvre vieux leur priait, mais sa prière leur faisait augmenter les coups de sabre, et puis l'un de ces gendarmes, ôtant son sabre, blesse la tête du vieux. Après que leurs mains sont fatigués font décharger leurs chariots pour y chercher des munitions; ne pouvant rien trouver chargeant de nouveau les chariots les conduisent au Youz-Bachi du village de Pirgoz, village d'une distance de trois heures loin de Roustchouk, là, envoyant les chariots comme ils étaient, chez l'Imam du village; ils ont emprisonné Hadji Hassan dans une écurie. Le lendemain, Mercredi, le chef policien de ce village envoie le susdit Rachid, avec les chariots et bagages et les familles, à Roustchouk; une heure après leur départ il envoie aussi Hadji Hassan avec le gendarme qui l'a battu et blessé; arrivant à Roustchouk on met Hadji Hassan dans une chambre des gendarmes; et pendant que Hadji Hassan restait dans la chambre un gendarme le reprochant lui donnait des coups de bâton et de pieds. Après deux heures on envoie Hadji Hassan et le gendarme qui l'a battu au Tribunal, et après y avoir fait quelques questions au gendarme on n'a rien pu comprendre et Hadji Hassan raconta tout ce qui est arrivé et tout ce qu'on lui a fait les gendarmes. Le Tribunal, après avoir fait soigner les blessures de Hadji Hassan par les médecins, le laisse libre. Quant au gendarme, le Tribunal l'a puni, et ayant pris son sabre, l'a congédié.

Le $\frac{11 \text{ Avril}}{23 \text{ Mai}}$, 1880.

No. 70.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 390.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September* 24, 1880.

I HAVE already had the honour to communicate to your Lordship, with my telegrams Nos. 252 and 253 of the 23rd instant, the substance of the reply returned by the Porte to the collective note of the 15th September, relative to the cession of Dulcigno to Montenegro. I now transmit a copy of the note addressed by the Porte to the Ambassadors of the six Powers at Constantinople.

The paragraph commencing with the words "En admettant," as your Lordship will observe, is not intelligible, and it was therefore decided at a meeting of the

Ambassadors, held a few hours after the receipt of the note (which was delivered at the several Embassies on the Upper Bosphorus by a special messenger between 1 and 2 o'clock A.M. yesterday), that explanations should be asked with regard to it.

Count Hatzfeldt, as Doyen, accordingly sent Baron Testa, the First Dragoman of the German Embassy, to ascertain from the Minister for Foreign Affairs the interpretation to be given to the passage in question.

His Excellency Assym Pasha stated that he was unable to give any other version of the passage in question than what had been officially given to the Ambassadors, but he did not object to Baron Testa seeing Artin Effendi, the Under-Secretary, who, it appears, had translated the Turkish text into French, and speaking with him with regard to the passage in question. No written communication was to be given. Baron Testa accordingly saw Artin Effendi, who informed him that he had received the strictest injunctions to translate literally from the Turkish, and that he could give no other translation. The explanations given by the Under-Secretary were vague, but Baron Testa took down from him the general sense of the passage, and embodied it in a memorandum of which I inclose a copy. Fortunately, there appears to be nothing of particular importance in the unintelligible passage, but it is a new feature in our present diplomatic relations with the Ottoman Government that their communications are translated so literally from a Turkish text as to make it impossible to render them into comprehensible French. It appears that similar orders had been given with regard to the Circular telegram lately communicated to the Turkish Agents abroad for communication to the European Cabinets as have been given in the case of the present note.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

Assym Pasha to the Ambassadors of the Signatory Powers at Constantinople.

Sublime Porte, le 22 *Septembre*, 1880.

LE Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, a eu l'honneur de recevoir la note que leurs Excellences MM. les Ambassadeurs de la Grande Bretagne, d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, d'Italie, et de Russie ont bien voulu lui adresser, en date du 15 Septembre, et par laquelle ils lui déclarent que si la Sublime Porte adhère à la cession immédiate de Dulcigno au Gouvernement Monténégrin, les Puissances Signataires en prendront acte avec satisfaction, et qu'en ce qui concerne le *statu quo*, elles consentent seulement à ce que le territoire de Dinoscli, qui en fait partie, reste à la Turquie.

Le Soussigné se permet de faire remarquer ici que ce qui a attiré le plus son attention, c'est que la note précitée ne mentionne point les assurances que le Gouvernement Impérial s'est cru en droit de demander relativement à l'abandon entier de tout projet de démonstration navale. Ces assurances, dont la prompte obtention lui paraît indispensable, la Sublime Porte les a explicitement exposées dans sa note du 15 Septembre, et le Soussigné, d'ordre de son Gouvernement, croit devoir les réitérer ci-après.

Leurs Excellences n'ignorent pas qu'aux termes du Traité de Berlin concernant la question Monténégrine, une partie du territoire de Gusinjé et de Plava devait être cédée au Monténégro. Dès le début de la question la Sublime Porte avait adhéré en principe à cette cession, et au moment où elle allait s'effectuer les retards apportés par le Gouvernement Monténégrin, aussi bien que les mesures peu efficaces qu'il avait prises, donnèrent naissance à de graves difficultés et complications qui furent constatées par les Puissances elles-mêmes. Aussi le Gouvernement Italien, en vue d'arriver à la solution de l'affaire, crut-il opportun de proposer à cette époque à la Sublime Porte, par l'entremise de son Représentant, son Excellence le Comte Corti, de conclure une Convention portant la date du 18 Avril, Convention qui, sur le désir des Puissances, et dans le but surtout de sauvegarder la tranquillité de l'Orient, fut acceptée par le Gouvernement Impérial.

Plus tard, cette décision ayant rencontré à son tour une foule d'obstacles et de complications, sa mise à exécution fut reconnue impossible, et l'on proposa la cession au Monténégro des territoires de Hotti, de Gruda, et de Clementi, et dans le cas contraire, de compenser cette cession, par celle de Dulcigno. Le Gouvernement Impérial, désirant toujours vivement le maintien de la paix en Orient et de l'abandon une fois pour toutes du projet de la démonstration navale, accepta cette dernière proposition.

Mais, cette fois encore, une grande effervescence s'est produite dans cette partie de l'Albanie au sein de la population locale elle-même; des difficultés de plus d'un genre et impossible à prévenir en ont résulté pour le Gouvernement. De leur côté les Puissances Européennes n'ayant nullement pris en considération la situation pénible de l'Empire, se sont arrêtées à une démonstration navale en persistant dans une voie qui, de toutes parts, a créé pour la Sublime Porte une position plus grave encore.

En conséquence le Gouvernement Impérial, pour mettre un terme à un pareil état de choses, par un dernier et unique moyen catégorique, se voit dans l'obligation de subordonner l'évacuation de Dulcigno à l'obtention des Cabinets Signataires d'assurances formelles et officielles relativement aux trois conditions suivantes:—

1. L'abandon par les Puissances de tout projet de démonstration navale pour n'importe quelle question, aussi bien dans le présent que dans l'avenir.

2. Garantie des biens, de la vie, de l'honneur, de tous les droits enfin de ceux des habitants qui désireraient émigrer, ainsi que des biens, de la vie, de l'honneur, et surtout de la religion, et des autres droits de ceux qui ne voudraient pas quitter leurs foyers.

3. Acceptation de la part des Puissances des bases du *statu quo* proposées par la Sublime Porte, et abandon de toute idée de faire désormais aucune autre demande, quelle qu'en soit la dénomination, par rapport au Monténégro.

Par ce qui précède le Gouvernement Impérial déclare donc, à regret, qu'il ne pourra se résoudre au sacrifice pénible de l'évacuation de Dulcigno tant qu'il n'aura pas obtenu des assurances formelles relativement aux conditions sus-énoncées.

Mais si les Puissances ne jugeaient pas opportun d'accepter ces demandes raisonnables de la Sublime Porte en les passant sous silence, ou si elles croyaient devoir les rejeter tout en continuant à exercer la pression sur le Gouvernement Ottoman, et en procédant à la démonstration navale, le Soussigné a l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de leurs Excellences que son Gouvernement se trouvera dans l'impossibilité d'ordonner l'évacuation de Dulcigno aux autorités légales.

En admettant que la démonstration navale se fasse quand même dans le cas qui précède, du moment que le Gouvernement Impérial, placé déjà en face de grands sacrifices préjudiciables à ses avantages personnels, devra pourtant y souscrire uniquement dans l'intérêt de la paix; du moment aussi qu'il sera résolu à les faire d'après des exemples précédents en cas bien entendu où les conditions précitées seraient garanties, et qu'il s'empressera de faire évacuer le territoire en question d'une manière légitime et équitable, dès lors il serait difficile de voir aucun motif légal et valable pour justifier le regret de cette dernière proposition de la Sublime Porte. Il est évident que si l'on persistait à exercer de la pression, ce ne serait naturellement pas au Gouvernement Impérial que devra incomber la responsabilité des complications qui en résulteront à l'avenir. En outre, comme le Gouvernement Ottoman aura dans une pareille occurrence trouvé sa justification aux yeux de tous, il a en conséquence pris la décision d'annoncer dans ce cas au monde entier les procédés pénibles dont il aura été l'objet.

Le Soussigné termine en déclarant encore une fois que si les Puissances, dans leur désir de voir l'Empire se sauver des graves embarras qui l'entourent, voulaient bien adhérer aux assurances qui font l'objet de la présente note responsive, le Gouvernement est prêt, comme il a été dit plus haut, à faire évacuer Dulcigno et à entrer immédiatement en négociations pour cet objet avec le Gouvernement du Monténégro.

Dans tous les cas il fait appel aux sentiments d'amitié et de justice des Puissances, et il leur sera redevable du bon accueil qu'elles voudront bien faire, il en a le ferme espoir, à ses demandes qui précèdent.

Le Soussigné, &c. (Signé) M. ASSYM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

Interpretation given by Artin Effendi, by order of Assym Pasha, to the unintelligible passage of the Note of September 22.

DU moment que le Gouvernement Ottoman est résolu à faire des sacrifices, quelque douloureux qu'ils soient, et ce dans l'intérêt de la paix, du moment aussi qu'il ne demande pas mieux que d'évacuer Dulcigno, pourvu que les trois points soient admis, il ne voit pas de motif plausible qui pourrait engager les Puissances à rejeter ces demandes.

No. 71.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 391. Confidential.)

Therapia, September 24, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to that part of my despatch No. 390 of this day which refers to an unintelligible passage in the last note received from the Porte, I have the honour to state that Sir A. Sandison also asked for explanations of Artin Effendi, the Under-Secretary of State, and took down the words embodied in the inclosed memorandum.

Your Lordship will observe how very closely the sense approached to that of the memorandum of Baron Testa inclosed in my previous despatch. It may be taken, I think, as fairly certain that the interpretation as now given is correct.

Artin Effendi said confidentially that the whole passage was really superfluous, and consisted of philosophical reflections "à la Turque." I may farther add that the Foreign Minister told Baron Testa that he could not ask for authority to give an explanation of the passage in question, as it would be "peu délicat" to suggest that anything written by the Sultan was unintelligible.

It is considered to be certain that the more important parts of the Circular telegram lately communicated, also of the present note, were composed by the Sultan himself, or, at all events, under his own eye, at the Palace.

Your Lordship will have observed a totally different style from that generally seen in Turkish diplomatic documents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Memorandum.

ARTIN EFFENDI qualifie le passage obscure de la note de réflexion philosophique ("à la Turque") comme quoi le Gouvernement Impérial est résolu à faire de sacrifices, quelque douloureux qu'ils soient pour lui, pourvu toutefois que les conditions énoncées soient acceptées, et que du moment que le Gouvernement est résolu dans l'intérêt de la paix à faire ces sacrifices, il ne voit pas un motif plausible à la démonstration navale.

No. 72.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 586. Extender.)

Vienna, September 28, 1880.

My Lord,

AS instructed by your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, I have asked Baron Haymerle his opinion on the state of affairs reported in the telegrams from Captain Sale.

His Excellency had received reports to the same effect, and said that the Prince of Montenegro, after having declared only three days before that he was ready to advance upon Dulcigno even if was to be defended by the regular Turkish forces, now hesitates to do so unless he can count upon receiving from the Powers political and military support beyond that to be given by the naval demonstration.

Baron Haymerle would promise every moral support in his power, and also any help that can be given to the Prince by the ships, but he must entirely decline promising any military assistance beyond it.

His Excellency is not, therefore, disposed to take upon himself the responsibility of urging the Prince of Montenegro to advance, for if he did so under the advice of the Powers, and chanced to be defeated, they would find themselves in a position of extreme embarrassment.

I asked what he would propose to do if matters came to the deadlock with which we seem threatened.

He said that he saw nothing for it but to continue to exert pressure upon the Porte, but he appears determined not to allow himself to drift into a possible war with Turkey.

and he will, I believe, be found resolute in declining to take any step tending to entail it in the event of the Porte proving obstinate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 73.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 588. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 28, 1880.

I ASKED Baron Haymerle to-day his opinion of the proposal of the Russian Government that a communication should be addressed to the Porte, by which the Powers threw upon it all the responsibility of what might accrue from the delay in complying with their demands about the Montenegrin frontier.

He said that the communication made by the Ambassadors to the Turkish Government two days ago seemed to have done by anticipation what was suggested by Russia, though he did not himself see any particular advantage to be obtained from declarations on the part of the Powers that they threw upon the Porte the responsibility of all that might take place, while the Porte, on the other hand, threw it upon them.

He would have preferred a note containing something more specific, and calling upon the Porte to fulfil the promises it made when it had stated that Riza Pasha was sent to Scutari with orders to carry out the cession of Dulcigno.

Instead of being desirous that the Porte should be looked upon as responsible for whatever the Pasha may do, he is extremely anxious that if a conflict takes place, it should be with the Albanians alone, and that the Pasha, and not the Turkish Government, should be answerable for it, so that nothing should occur of the character of hostile operations against the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 74.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 590. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 28, 1880.

I AM informed that M. Lippich having been instructed to ascertain what truth there was in a statement, made I believe at Constantinople, that Riza Pasha had summoned the Mirdites to come to the defence of Dulcigno, has replied that the Pasha declares it to be quite untrue.

He stated, however, that if Turkish territory should be attacked by the Montenegrins before he received orders to give it up, he would call not only the Mirdites, but all the other Albanian clans, to come to its defence, but he repeated on this occasion that, as he had before said, he can effect the cession of Dulcigno without difficulty if he receives from his Government authority to give it up.

I have requested Baron Haymerle to communicate to me any information of interest that he may receive from M. Lippich during Mr. Green's absence from Scutari, and he has been good enough to promise to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 75.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 592. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 28, 1880.

THE King and Queen of Greece arrived here two days ago, an apartment at the Berg having been put at their disposal.

His Majesty did me the honour of receiving me yesterday, and spoke at considerable

length upon the question of the new frontier, expressing the hope that the Powers would not lose sight of the interests of his kingdom, but saying nothing of the course which he would wish to see adopted.

He admitted that before the spring his army would not be in a condition to undertake any operation, and that there was, therefore, no occasion for precipitate action; but he expressed his confident belief that after the period he had named it would be perfectly capable of taking possession of the provinces which had been assigned to him, and he trusted that in the meantime the Powers would not lose sight of the question.

I assured him that there was no danger of this, and that the decision come to by the Powers at Berlin would unquestionably be maintained.

His Majesty's chief anxiety appeared to lie in the possibility of a Bulgarian movement, which might lead to an extension of the Principality into districts which ought ultimately to fall to the share of Greece.

For his own part, he would much rather wait for the extension of his kingdom than see it accompanied by other arrangements which would prove fatal to the more complete development which he hoped that Greece would some day attain.

I asked the King whether he was satisfied with the disposition in which he had found the Imperial Government, and he replied that he was entirely so, and spoke, as it appeared to me, with decided satisfaction of what he considered the certainty of the advance of Austria to Mitrovitza in the event of any formidable movement in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 76.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 594. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 29, 1880.

BARON HAYMERLE informs me that he received a telegram from Baron Calice this morning, stating that the collective note of the Ambassadors had caused great dismay at the Porte, and that the Sultan promised that if a little more time was allowed him he would by Sunday next be able to satisfy the Powers in regard to the Montenegrin frontier.

His Excellency thinks that, taking into consideration the hesitation of the Prince of Montenegro, as there would be no appreciable loss of time, the Porte might be told that the Sultan would be allowed the delay he asks for, but without any expectation being held out that the demands of the Powers would be modified.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 77.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 4.)

(No. 596. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, September* 29, 1880.

I READ to Baron Haymerle Captain Sale's telegram No. 14, repeated to me in your Lordship's No. 668 of yesterday.

His Excellency said that the version of Riza Pasha's letter to the Prince of Montenegro, which had been communicated to Admiral Seymour, appeared to have differed very materially from the text of the letter itself, of which he had received a copy, and of which I now have the honour to inclose a transcript.

It will be seen that what the Pasha had said was that he should consider any military operation, undertaken before the negotiations had led to a satisfactory result, as an act of hostility, and that till he had received the necessary orders he should be obliged to repel force by force.

There is in Baron Haymerle's appreciation a wide distinction between this and a declaration that the advance of the Prince would be deemed an act of war against Turkey, by which he might be committing himself to face the whole strength of the Turkish Empire.

A military commander could hardly avoid regarding an invasion of his Sovereign's territories as an act of hostility which he was bound to resist unless he had orders to the contrary, but he could not without authority declare that it established a state of war between the two countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 77.

Riza Pacha to Bozo Petrovitch.

JE viens d'apprendre qu'une concentration de troupes Monténégrines a lieu depuis quelques jours sur les frontières Ottomanes, et qu'elle augmente de jour en jour. Vous n'ignorez certainement pas, je le crois, M. le Commandant, que le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman a soumis à l'approbation des Hautes Puissances les trois conditions formant la base de la cession et de l'évacuation de Dulcigno aux autorités de Monténégro. Des pourparlers sont entamés à ce propos entre la Sublime Porte et les Cabinets des Grandes Puissances.

Ceci posé, je crois de mon devoir de vous déclarer, M. le Commandant, que je considérerai comme acte d'hostilité toute opération militaire avant que ces négociations aboutissent à un résultat satisfaisant, et avant que les ordres en conséquence me fussent parvenus, pour vous en donner connaissance; que je me verrai dans la pénible nécessité de repousser la force par la force, en cas que l'on n'attendrait pas l'arrivée des dispositions nécessaires, laissant dès à présent aux autorités de la Principauté la responsabilité de tout empiétement.

Veuillez, &c.

No. 78.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 598. Extender.)
Vienna, September 29, 1880.

My Lord,

M. HENGELMÜLLER will be instructed to communicate to your Lordship, for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, a telegram which Baron Haymerle proposes to send to Baron Calice this afternoon, stating that, although the Ambassadors had anticipated the Russian proposal for throwing upon the Turkish Government all responsibility for what might occur from their delay in settling the Montenegrin frontier, the letter of Riza Pasha to the Prince of Montenegro seemed to render a further communication necessary.

Baron Calice is desired to concert with his colleagues in preparing another note, asking the Porte to declare distinctly whether Riza Pasha was authorized to hold such language to the Prince, and calling upon it to give him orders more in conformity with its assurances when he was sent to Scutari, desiring him to desist from interfering to prevent the Montenegrins from occupying Dulcigno, and at least to withdraw his troops to the other side of the Boyana.

The Imperial Government show an extreme anxiety to avoid all risk of being engaged in a conflict in which the Sultan's troops might take part.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 79.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 600. Extender.)
Vienna, September 29, 1880.

My Lord,

HAVING received your Lordship's telegrams No. 666 and No. 669 of yesterday and the day before, I have pressed Baron Haymerle to say what course of procedure should now be adopted with reference to the Montenegrin frontier question, but he did not give me any definite opinion.

There were, he said, three points that must be kept steadily in view:—

1. To maintain a complete agreement among the Powers.
2. To avoid everything leading to war with Turkey.
3. Not to push the Prince of Montenegro into steps which might entail upon him disastrous consequences against which the Powers would have no means of protecting him.

If the Prince were to sustain a crushing defeat, the Albanians might take the opportunity of invading Montenegro, and of committing devastation, which there would be no way of preventing.

Baron Haymerle on this occasion emphatically repeated the declaration of his determination not to be drawn into a war with Turkey, and again said that, though the Powers were pledged to afford the Prince of Montenegro such assistance as could be given by their ships, they had undertaken nothing more.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 80.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 601.)
Vienna, September 29, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 584, directing me to consult with Baron Haymerle on the subject of the Servian Agrarian Law, with a view to ascertaining whether anything can be done to correct the injustice with which it will bear on the Mussulman proprietors.

His Excellency replied he had just received from the Turkish Ambassador a copy of the despatch from the Porte upon this subject, and it appeared to him impossible to deny that the complaint of the Turkish Government was perfectly well founded. At the time of the law passing through the Skuptchina he had been on the point of addressing a remonstrance to the Servian Government, and, though on consideration of other matters that were then being discussed with them, he had deferred doing so, he thought that the question would have now to be taken up.

He could not at once say what course it would be best to adopt; but the law was undoubtedly at variance with the provisions of the XXXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, which had guaranteed to the Mussulmans who emigrated from the Principality the possession of their properties, and the right of administering them by third persons, and he would examine the papers connected with the question, and inform your Lordship of his opinion about it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 81.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 448. Extender.)
Berlin, September 30, 1880.

My Lord,

AFTER communicating your Lordship's recent telegrams to the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, I asked his Excellency how the present situation of things at Constantinople and Scutari and Cettinjé was viewed by the German Government.

Count Limburg Stirum told me in reply that the course adopted by Count Hatzfeldt had been fully approved, but that the German Government, faithful to the principle of supporting the European concert, had no special proposition to make, and would await the concerted decision of the Powers, as heretofore, before pronouncing themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 82.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 452. Extender.)
Berlin, October 1, 1880.

My Lord,

COUNT LIMBURG STIRUM tells me that Count Hatzfeldt has been instructed to support Baron Haymerle's proposition, and to concert with his colleagues in preparing a note calling upon the Porte to declare whether Riza Pasha's recent conduct was warranted or not.

The German Government agree cordially in Baron Haymerle's views as to the maintenance of a complete agreement among the Powers, and think, as he does, that everything should be avoided which could lead to war with Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 83.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4.)

(No. 940. Extender.)
Paris, October 3, 1880.

My Lord,

IN obedience to the instruction from your Lordship sent to me by telegraph yesterday, I went this morning to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, and begged him to make known to me the views of the French Government on the present aspect of the Greek question.

I adverted to the conversation which your Lordship had had on the subject with the French Ambassador in London four days before, and said that the Ambassador had no doubt reported the desire expressed by your Lordship to consult the French Government in full confidence, and before communicating with the other Cabinets, as to the best time and mode of treating the question. I remarked that the lead taken by France in this matter in the Congress of Berlin, 1878, in the Conference held at the same place this year, as well as on other occasions, made it natural that France should continue to take the initiative with regard to it, and that it was with a view to co-operating with the French Government that Her Majesty's Government were desirous of being made acquainted with their views.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire was evidently quite prepared for the communication, and he gave his answer promptly and categorically.

He held to me, on the part of the present French Cabinet, exactly the same language which had been used to Mr. Adams by the late Prime Minister, M. de Freycinet, as reported in Mr. Adams' despatches Nos. 684, 689, and 725 of the 4th, 5th, and 13th ultimo.

France must, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said, abstain altogether from taking the initiative with regard to the Greek question, nor, highly as he appreciated the courtesy of Her Majesty's Government, and anxious as he was to act entirely in unison with them, could he consent to discuss that question with any one Power separately.

The deliberate resolution of the French Government was, he declared, to adhere closely to the concert of the Six Powers, but not to take any lead themselves. They were decidedly of opinion that the Montenegrin, Greek, and Armenian questions should now be treated as one whole; and, in the interest of peace and harmony, they were extremely anxious that all three should be finally settled with the greatest possible promptitude by the Six Powers in concert.

The French Government would carefully consider any suggestions for settling them which might be proposed to them, and would be very desirous of adopting any plan which was agreed upon by the other Powers. They must, however, state at once distinctly that they would not incur any risk of being drawn into a war.

On the one hand, the French Government were, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said, prohibited by the Constitution from making war without the consent of the Chambers; while, on the other hand, public opinion throughout France would vehemently disapprove any action on the part of the Government which might appear to tend, however remotely or indirectly, to involve the country in hostilities.

In the course of a long conversation which ensued, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire reiterated the declaration, that the fixed policy of the French Government was to adhere strictly to the concert of the Powers, but not to put themselves prominently forward or take any initiative.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 84.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4, 1 P.M.)

(No. 188. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, October 3, 1880, 11 A.M.

TURKISH Ambassador begged me to call on him to-day. His object evidently was to discover whether Her Majesty's Government is now in earnest, and whether I had heard from your Lordship any compromise which, whilst satisfying the Powers, would enable Sultan to yield.

Sultan ought to yield, otherwise the action of the Powers will break up the Turkish Empire; but if His Majesty does yield, without some, however small, concession to cover his retreat, there will be general anarchy, and the Turkish Empire will be equally destroyed.

Turkish Ambassador asked me confidentially whether the policy of Her Majesty's present advisers is to drive the Turks out of Europe as best means of finishing the Eastern question.

I denied this most earnestly, and said what the Powers now propose is for the real interest of the Turks, whom England wishes always to see strong and prosperous.

His Excellency tried hard to persuade me Austria is not playing fair; he said that she had already allowed it to be known at Constantinople that she would not be so stiff on the Greek question. I replied that the concord of the Powers continued perfect, and that, as regards Austria, I thought he was under a mistake.

Although I had no authority to discuss such matters with him, I assured his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government were perfectly in earnest, and that the best service he could render Turkey would be to urge his Sovereign to accede at once to the moderate demands of the Powers. If not, the consequence of His Majesty's refusal would be extremely serious.

Turkish Ambassador apparently acknowledged that is [*sic*] only Sultan and his immediate Court who now oppose cession of Dulcigno, but he strongly insisted that unless Powers smooth in some manner the way for the Sultan, His Majesty is in such an excited state that he will brave all the possible consequences of refusal sooner than face the certainty of humiliation in the eyes of his subjects, should he now, without any conditions, submit to the dictation of the fleets.

No. 85.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, October 4, 1880.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 38 of the 30th ultimo, you are authorized to contradict absolutely the statement that Sir C. Dilke suggested that the King of Greece should visit Paris.

In a conversation with the Greek Minister, who has not seen Sir C. Dilke for more than a month, his Excellency informed me that he remembers having himself suggested the idea to Sir C. Dilke some time before, but that the latter returned no answer.

No. 86.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4, 10·42 A.M.)

(No. 109. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, October 4, 1880, 9·53 A.M.

I HAVE been confidentially informed that Baron Haymerle has privately urged German and French Governments to support him in accepting the Sultan's ultimatum whatever it is, and to bring the Montenegrin question to a close at any price.

No. 87.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 635.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 4, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

IT is 4·30 P.M., and we have received no information of the promise of the Sultan being fulfilled—that a communication would be made to the Ambassadors.

If none has been made, propose to the other Ambassadors to demand an explanation.

No. 88.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4, 6 P.M.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cattaro, October* 4, 1880, 2 P.M.

HAVE arrived here with Admiral in "Helicon;" please address telegrams, Her Majesty's ship "Helicon," Cattaro. English and Russian ships are at Castelnuovo; French, Italian, and Austrian ships expected there to-day.

No. 89.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4, 6·37 P.M.)

(No. 90. Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, October* 4, 1880, 1·16 P.M.

ALEKO PASHA was informed yesterday by Russian Consul-General that General Skobeleff would shortly arrive here. On his Excellency's referring to the rumour that General Tchernaieff was coming to Eastern Roumelia, Russian Consul-General replied, "No; Skobeleff is coming here; Minister for War decided that Tchernaieff is to go to Servia or Macedonia."

(Sent home [? to Constantinople].)

No. 90.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4, 6·56 P.M.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October* 4, 1880, 4 P.M.

NEWS has been received by Greek Government that Porte has made a condition of settlement of Montenegrin question that Greek question should be postponed for two or three months.

M. Tricoupi told me that the object of the Porte no doubt was to exhaust Greece by obliging her to keep a large army on foot through the winter. He said, however, that if they found no disposition on the part of Turkey to concede the provinces, it would be impossible, as soon as the army was prepared, to restrain the Greeks from taking the offensive and attempting to take possession of Epirus and Thessaly by force.

No. 91.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4, 7·16 P.M.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October* 4, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

FRENCH Minister, who has only just arrived at Athens, has been summoned by telegraph to Paris.

He tried to avoid going, but has been peremptorily ordered to do so, and leaves by first steamer.

No. 92.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4, 5 P.M.)

(No. 283.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 4, 1880, 4 P.M.

ANSWER from Porte received at 2 o'clock.

It is an immensely long and thoroughly unsatisfactory document. The chief points are that the Porte maintains its demands both as regards Montenegro and Greece [?], and holds, above all, to condition that no naval demonstration is to take place either at present or in the future.

If the three conditions last proposed are acceptable by the Powers, the Porte will retire local authorities and troops at Dulcigno; but even in this case, if I understand the note rightly, it will not be responsible for disorders; it will only use all the persuasion in its power.

This is a preliminary telegram only.

No. 93.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4, 7 P.M.)

(No. 284.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 4, 1880, 6·50 P.M.

TURKISH note, after preamble, enumerates conditions which it last put forward, and the negative answers of the Powers.

Note then states that:—

Meanwhile the combined squadrons were preparing for action, and it was impossible to foresee the difficulties which might follow.

The official reason given on the subject of the demonstration for the moment only referred to putting Dulcigno into the hands of Montenegro; but it was none the less true that the failure to obtain the assurances demanded, as well as the turn of events, and certain tidings which had reached the Porte, caused it to think that the demonstration will equally be made on the occasion of the solution of the Greek question, and perhaps also on the occasion of Armenian reforms, the service of the public debt, and the Russian indemnity.

Accordingly the Porte, in order to definitely avoid ("écarter") for the present and the future the project of naval demonstrations, which tend to nothing less than to imperil the rights of the Empire, will proceed to enumerate one by one, in a precise and categorical manner, all that it will be able to do with reference to above questions foreseen by the Treaty of Berlin.

The Porte engages to cede, and to cause the evacuation of, Dulcigno, maintaining the line of the *status quo*, so soon as the Powers shall have given the assurances demanded by its last note, and which it again repeats.

The Imperial authorities will inform the local population that it is free to emigrate or to remain. They will use all possible means of persuasion with this object. If these endeavours fail, the troops and the local authorities will retire to the frontiers, and the Imperial Government will not be held responsible for any complications whatever which may arise in consequence of such failure.

I telegraph statements about Greece and other points separately.

No. 94.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4, 9·40 P.M.)

(No. 285.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 4, 1880, 8·30 P.M.

CONTINUATION of telegram No. 284.

On Greek question, note maintains refusal of Turks to surrender Larissa and the three other excepted places, but states that it modifies previous offer of negotiating to fix a line of frontier, and substitutes for it a proposal shown on all maps of a definite frontier line, proposed by itself, leaving the four places to Turkey. On the north this line commences at the position of Capidja. It is to pass from two to three hours' distance

from Larissa; later to touch the Salembria. Afterwards by the summit of the Prosgol to River Arta, and to follow that river to the Gulf of Arta.

I have not yet examined the line on the map. It is difficult to telegraph the detailed course, but the territory ceded is to be surrendered in 100 [*sic*] days to the Hellenic authorities in the same [? manner] as was laid down in the note for the cession of Dulcigno.

The note proceeds to amplify somewhat the proposals as regards Armenia made in the last note, offers to the representatives of the public creditors to Constantinople to settle the debt with them, but without the intervention of the Powers, and winds up by claiming the demolition of the Danubian fortresses, and the occupation of the Balkans by Ottoman troops.

No. 95.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 765.) *Foreign Office, October* 4, 1880, 7·45 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Government approve your language to Turkish Ambassador as reported in your telegram No. 188, Most Confidential, of yesterday.

No. 96.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4, 8·24 P.M.)

(No. 165.) *Vienna, October* 4, 1880, 4·6 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

IT is reported to the Austrian Government from Cettinjé that the Prince of Montenegro has dismissed three battalions of the troops he had assembled at Sutorman.

No. 97.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4, 8·37 P.M.)

(No. 166.) *Vienna, October* 4, 1880, 4·6 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

BARON HAYMERLE asked me whether it might not be possible to satisfy the Prince of Montenegro by a pecuniary compensation for the positions to the east of the lake which constitute one main difficulty, and whether the Cyprus revenue might not be made over to him for this object. I said that I believed the Cyprus revenue to be already pledged, and that I doubted Her Majesty's Government being free to deal with it as he suggested.

No. 98.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 4, 8·37 P.M.)

(No. 167.) *Vienna, October* 4, 1880, 6 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE communicated to Baron Haymerle the substance of your Lordship's despatch No. 642 received this morning.

He could say nothing till he had spoken with the Emperor, who is at present at Isehl, but it would be impossible for him to recommend His Majesty to sacrifice an Austrian soldier for the sake of Montenegro, and the occupation of that Principality, and the guarantee of its frontier by Austria, could not, he thought, be entertained.

The other alternatives suggested by your Lordship would be carefully considered if proposed in a definite and tangible form, but, as he had before said, he must keep in view his determination not to be drawn into war with Turkey, and before he associated himself in any fresh step he must be satisfied that it would not lead him towards it.

The possible consequences of every step must be weighed. If the demonstration before Constantinople did not make the Sultan give way, what would be our position?

It might also produce an insurrectionary movement that would unsettle everything.

He had consented to the naval demonstration, but had never contemplated going further than that, beyond diplomatic pressure on the Porte.

I said that when that step had been resolved upon no one could expect that the Powers would stop there if it proved ineffectual, and that I was sure Her Majesty's Government would never consent to withdraw their ships without having obtained anything.

What they might decide to do I could not say, but some other Governments would be found ready to go with them, and Austria would have to decide whether it was more for her interest to go with us further perhaps than she wished, or to withdraw from the concert, and see measures adopted by others which she might like still less.

No. 99.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.[a]

(No. 766.) *Foreign Office, October* 4, 1880, 8·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Government presume that the note from the Porte, the substance of which has been received to-day from Mr. Goschen and repeated to you, will be held by all the Powers to be unacceptable as a basis either for an arrangement or for negotiation.

They consider that the recent conduct of the Porte has entirely changed the situation, and has, together with the delay, added to the difficulty of local action.

They propose that the allied fleets should be transferred from the Adriatic to Smyrna, which port should be held as a material guarantee.

There is no difficulty in the operation, even for a smaller naval force, and it could be conducted without prejudice to mercantile interests.

The proposal is made subject to the concurrence of the Powers, and under the conditions of the self-denying Protocol, and as affording a means of putting effectual pressure on the Porte with the least amount of risk of inducing further complications.

No. 100.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 647. Extender.) *Foreign Office, October* 4, 1880.
Sir,

THE further period of time asked for by the Sultan to enable His Majesty to effect the settlement of the Montenegrin question has expired, but Her Majesty's Government are not aware that any communication in accordance with the promise made by his Majesty has as yet been addressed by the Porte to the Ambassadors of the Great Powers at Constantinople.

If no such communication has been received, I have to instruct your Excellency to at once propose to your colleagues to take steps for demanding an explanation from the Porte of the cause of this delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 101.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 648.) *Foreign Office, October* 4, 1880.
Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 647 of the 3rd, inclosing for your Excellency's information a memorandum drawn up in this Office respecting arrivals of arms and non-commissioned officers from Russia, and the unionist movement in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, I now transmit the information in the shape in which it has been communicated to the Russian Ambassador at this Court,† and I have to request your Excellency to give confidentially a copy of the inclosed memorandum to Baron Haymerle, and to state that Her Majesty's Government would be glad to receive from the Austro-Hungarian

[a] Also to Lord Lyons (No. 533), Mr. Macdonell (No. 694), Sir H. Elliot (No. 702), and Lord Odo Russell (No. 649).

† See Inclosure in No. 103.

Government such information as they may be able to communicate with regard to the subjects referred to in it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 102

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 650.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1880.*

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has read to me to-day a despatch from his Government, stating that Admiral Sir B. Seymour had inquired of the Commander of the Austrian squadron at Gravosa whether, in case it became necessary, for the purposes of naval demonstration, to send vessels of war to the Montenegrin coast, the port of Antivari, of which Austria exercises the maritime and sanitary police, would be open to the allied fleet in the same way as the Dalmatian ports belonging to Austria-Hungary.

The Austrian Government say that they have, in reply, instructed their Admiral to observe to Sir B. Seymour that, although Article XXIX of the Treaty of Berlin confers on them the maritime and sanitary police of Antivari and the whole coast of Montenegro, it at the same time declared that port and the whole coast of Montenegro to be closed to vessels of war. The question, therefore, involved a temporary suspension of one of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, and the Austrian Government felt that they could not decide it by themselves. For their own part the Austrian Government would offer no objection to Admiral Seymour sending ships of war into Antivari and within Montenegrin waters, for the purposes of the naval demonstration, and in order to facilitate communications with Montenegro; but they must at the same time make an express reservation that this fact should not in any way prejudice the validity of the stipulations of Article XXIX of the Treaty of Berlin, and that these should, *ipso facto*, resume full force as soon as the naval demonstration was over.

I thanked M. Hengelmüller for this communication, and subsequently told him that Her Majesty's Government would have no objection to the reservation he mentioned, though the interest of the question was for the time in abeyance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 103.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 651. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1880.*

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me to-day and told me that he had received a telegram from Baron Haymerle, stating that, in reply to the inquiry which your Excellency had addressed to him as to the means of pressure to which Austria would consent in order to induce the Porte to comply with the demands of the Powers, he had replied that he could not answer off hand a question of such general import.

Baron Haymerle added that as each step led naturally to a further one, careful consideration was required at each stage, and that he found it doubly difficult at the present moment to take any initiative, as public opinion in Austria was opposed to action against Turkey, and the Delegations were now sitting. M. Hengelmüller was instructed to offer me Baron Haymerle's thanks for the confidence I had shown him, and to say that he would not abandon the object of compelling the Porte to execute all the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, and of remaining in union with England and the other Powers as long as possible. An answer, however, to the inquiry of Her Majesty's Government required an assiduous and calm consideration of the circumstances and a knowledge of the new proposals which the Sultan had promised. Baron Haymerle stated, in conclusion, that he would also wish to have a clearer idea of the details of possible local action for the settlement of the Montenegrin question, as suggested by me, which would comprise a guarantee of the Prince's territories by Austria-Hungary, simultaneously with assistance from the fleet.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 104.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 502.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1880.*

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me on the 30th ultimo to speak of the present state of the negotiations with Turkey.

I informed his Excellency of the telegraphic instructions which had been addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, with the tenour of which you are already acquainted, and I asked whether he was aware of the view which the Russian Government took of the present situation, and of the course to be adopted.

Prince Lobanoff said he had not received any expression of their opinion on the most recent phase of the question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 105.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 505. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1880.*

I HAVE received your telegram No. 188, Most Confidential, of yesterday's date, recording a conversation you have had with the Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, respecting the Porte's present relations with the Great Powers of Europe, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language you held to his Excellency, as reported in your above-mentioned telegram.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 106.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.[*]

(No. 506. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 4, 1880.*

I HAVE received by telegraph from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and have communicated to you the substance of the last note from the Porte upon the subject of the Montenegrin frontier question.

Her Majesty's Government presume that this communication from the Porte will be held by all the Powers to be unacceptable as a basis either for an arrangement or for negotiation.

In their opinion the recent conduct of the Porte has entirely changed the situation, and has, together with the delay which has taken place, added to the difficulty of local action.

They would, therefore, propose that the allied fleets should proceed from the Adriatic to Smyrna, and that that port should be held as a material guarantee.

The operation would not be difficult even for a naval force less powerful than the combined squadrons, and it could be carried out without prejudice to mercantile interests.

Her Majesty's Government make this proposal subject to the concurrence of the other Powers, and under the conditions specified in the self-denying Protocol. They consider that it will afford the means of bringing effectual pressure to bear upon the Porte with the least amount of risk of leading to further complications.

I have to request that you will make a communication in the sense of this despatch to the Government to which you are accredited.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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[*] Also to Lord Lyons (No. 1321), Mr. Macdonell (No. 539), Sir H. Elliot (No. 649), and Lord Odo Russell (No. 635).

No. 107.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 146. Extender.)

Foreign Office, October 4, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 36 of the 30th ultimo, informing me that M. Tricoupi has acquainted you that Sir Charles Dilke had advised M. Contostavlos, the Greek Minister at this Court, to recommend the King of Greece to proceed to Paris to concert with the new French Ministry on the Greek question.

I have, however, to authorize you to give this statement an absolute contradiction on the part of Sir Charles Dilke. M. Contostavlos—who has not seen Sir Charles Dilke for more than a month—has informed me in a recent conversation that he remembers that it was he himself who suggested the idea to Sir Charles Dilke some time before, but that Sir Charles returned no answer on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 108.

Earl Granville to Prince Lobanow.

Foreign Office, October 4, 1880.

EARL GRANVILLE presents his compliments to Prince Lobanow, and in accordance with the promise made to his Excellency has the honour to inclose a memorandum as to the information received from various sources respecting arrivals of arms and non-commissioned officers in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia from Russia, and the movement for a union of the province with the principality.

Inclosure in No. 108.

Memorandum as to Information received from various sources respecting Arrivals of Arms and Non-Commissioned Officers from Russia and Unionist Movement in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

Importation of Arms and Munitions of War.

THE following is estimated as the approximate amount of war material sent up the Danube from Reni down to the 17th August: Rifles, 60,000; ammunition cases, 8,000; mountain-guns, 48 or 80.

They were mostly of the Chassepôt pattern, the remainder being Remington and Berdan.

The following consignments are also reported to have reached Rustchuk from Reni:—

On the 18th June, 8,000 Berdan rifles and a large quantity of ammunition, picks, and shovels.

On the 21st July a full cargo of ammunition, of which some 1,600 boxes were landed, the remainder being sent on to Widdin.

On the 11th August, 2 batteries of Krupp field-pieces (16 guns), with tumbrils, a number of boxes of shells, 1,460 Berdan rifles, and about 1,344 boxes of small arms ammunition.

Total arrivals reported since the beginning of May:—

69,460 rifles, 16 Krupp field-guns, with tumbrils and shells; 2,944 boxes of ammunition, besides unenumerated quantities of ammunition, picks, and shovels.

At Reni, the hospital sheds built in 1878 are used as ammunition magazines whence war material is shipped up the Danube. These magazines are guarded by sentries in Bulgarian uniform.

It is estimated that there have been received in Bulgaria 40,000 rifles of the improved pattern. The conversion of muzzle-loaders is also going on at Rasgrad, where 25 Russians were sent in the spring to take the place of workmen of other nationalities.

By an order of the Lord High Admiral, published in the Russian "Official Gazette," the "Golubchik," paddle-wheel steamer of the Black Sea fleet, was transferred to Bulgaria, though it was laid down at the Congress of Berlin that Bulgaria, being a vassal Principality, could have no naval flag.

Arrival of Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers.

As to the Russian non-commissioned officers sent to Bulgaria:—

In May, it was estimated that 184 had arrived, and 420 more were expected.

The arrival at Varna of 163 was reported in April, and of 78 on the 20th May; and of 15 or 20 officers down to the 5th August, and about 30 officers between the 5th August and the 2nd September.

At Rustchuk there arrived from Reni, on the 20th July, 200 non-commissioned officers.

We have, therefore, heard of the arrival in Bulgaria of altogether 441 non-commissioned officers, of whom 337 are stated to be now in the Bulgarian military service, as well as 178 Russian officers, 30 being of a higher rank than Captain.

Through the medium of the Russian Military Attaché at Philippopoli, and during the absence of Aleko Pasha, the Eastern Roumelian authorities made arrangements to engage 114 Russian sergeants, and 25 of these have arrived at Bourgas; 100 native non-commissioned officers, whose period of service had just ended, were refused readmission.

Unionist Movement.

The reports received at the Foreign Office show that during the last few months considerable progress has been made in the Russification of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia; preparations are apparently being made with a view to a movement for the union of the principality and the province, whenever a favourable opportunity occurs.

The Bulgarian Minister of War is a Russian subject.

The new Prefect of Shumla is a Russian officer, and the Sub-Prefect at Eski-Stamboul and his Secretary are also Russians.

Eighty Russians have lately been sent to Bulgaria to fill judicial posts.

No progress has been made with the razing of the fortifications of Shumla and Rustchuk, and at Widdin the work of demolition has been stopped by orders from Sophia.

We hear of bands of volunteers being enrolled, and the establishment of a Society at Varna, the secret object of which is to collect funds in the shape of a loan to be repaid in the event of the success of the unionist movement.

A law has been passed (the 13th June) incorporating every male Bulgarian from 20 to 40 into a National Guard, with fifty days' service yearly; and renewed activity on the part of the Gymnastic Societies is reported, orders having been issued by the Secret Committees that all Bulgars from 18 to 30 years are to drill at least twice a-week.

At the meeting of Bulgarian agitators held at Slivno (the 29th May), attended by two Delegates from Bulgaria, it was resolved that unless the gymnasts were immediately drawn into the reserve of the militia, their military exercises must be resumed.

The Commandant of the militia, General Strecker, by his Circular, practically carried out this decision, his scheme raising the militia to its full strength at the end of the first year of its existence, which is contrary to the spirit of the Organic Statute.

The Eastern Roumelian Government has been borrowing money, ostensibly from Bulgaria, and the accounts given by the Bulgarian and Eastern Roumelian Governments of the purpose for which this money is required do not agree.

It appears that the Eastern Roumelian Government is seeking a loan of 2,500,000 fr. from Bulgaria.

The number of Russians in Bulgaria is estimated at about 3,000, of which 2,000 are probably officers. The Bulgarian troops are so stationed as to threaten the Ichtiman Pass. Slivno and Kotel appear to be the centres of the union movement in Eastern Roumelia, and the monastery of Rilo in Macedonia. The money claimed by Russia for the cost of occupation is placed at the disposal of the Russian Consul-General, and the militia is virtually commanded, through the Russian officers, by Captain Eck, the Russian Military Attaché at Philippopoli.

A Secret Society has been founded at Sophia for the emancipation of the Bulgarians of Macedonia, and there are branch Committees in the chief towns of that province. Arms are sent thither in peasants' carts covered with logs, and there are 10,000 breech-loading rifles collected at Kustendil, and a like number at Dubnitza.

September 14, 1880.

No. 109.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Foreign Office, October 4, 1880.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Granville to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, informing his Lordship that Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour telegraphs that, in consideration of the state of the weather, it is his intention to remove the fleet to Cattaro within the next week, and I am to request that you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that Lord Granville concurs in the course which the Admiral intends to pursue.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 110.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 342. Secret.)

Philippopoli, September 25, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 340 of the 18th instant that I had been informed that the Governor-General seriously meditated resigning, and that he had written a letter to Saïd Pasha exposing his difficulties, and announcing the course which he proposed to take. I likewise reported to your Lordship that I had ventured to urge my informant to use his influence in dissuading his Excellency from taking any hasty step.

I now learn from the same source that the letter referred to has not been sent, and that his Excellency has decided to postpone his resignation until the effect produced by Colonel Wilson's Report, and the action which the Powers intend taking with regard to the state of the province, are known. With a view, however, of having an excuse for resigning in case his position becomes absolutely untenable, the Governor-General has addressed letters to Saïd Pasha and M. Novikoff, stating that the income he receives under the Organic Statute is insufficient, and that unless the Signatory Powers agree to increase it he will be compelled to give up his appointment.

As the departure of Aleko Pasha at the present moment would undoubtedly produce a most discouraging effect on the Turkish inhabitants (many of whom are already selling their lands and emigrating), and would not unlikely be the signal for the outbreak of an Unionist movement, I will not fail to take advantage of the approval which Mr. Goschen has expressed of the language I have already held in the matter, and avail myself of any opportunity that may occur to dissuade his Excellency from resigning.

During a visit which I paid the day before yesterday to the konak Aleko Pasha again referred to the increasing influence which Russia was obtaining over the militia. His remarks were mostly allegorical. He compared the province to a lake whose calm surface the slightest north wind might immediately agitate into stormy waves; and he observed that, had England been lately at war with the United States, Her Majesty's Government would not officer the Irish militia with Americans. Alluding to the Unionist movement, he said: "Should an armed Bulgarian force cross the Balkans, Europe would, no doubt, expect the Provincial Government to take the necessary measures to repulse it. The Government, however, has no troops at its command. The East Roumelian militia is a foreign force, and the people, seeing that the Government was powerless, would be compelled to do what the agitators told them."

He concluded by saying that he was surprised at the indifference shown by Europe with respect to what was taking place in Eastern Roumelia.

As the subject was a delicate one, I thought it advisable in replying to confine myself to general remarks, by expressing regret that such large sums of money should be expended on military organization, and so little aid given to the industrial and agricultural wants of the people. As regards the alleged indifference of Europe to the welfare of Eastern Roumelia, I repeated the observations which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my above-mentioned despatch, namely, that the mission recently confided to Colonel Wilson was of itself a proof of the lively interest Her Majesty's Government took in the affairs of this province.

Aleko Pasha made no allusion to his intention of resigning, and, as the information I had received on the subject was given me in strict confidence, and unknown to his Excellency, I did not refer to it.

His Excellency, who appears to be much afraid of his name appearing in the Blue Book, requested me to consider his remarks as confidential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 111.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 343. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, September 25, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy, together with a translation, of an inflammatory address which, it appears, is being distributed in the Principality and in Eastern Roumelia on behalf of the Bulgarian inhabitants of Macedonia.

The original copy shown to me is a lithographed document, containing a steel-cut impression of the Bulgarian arms, encircled with the words "Bulgaro-Macedonian League—Freedom or Death."

The crest is, in fact, so admirably executed, that it is very improbable that the plate was made either in the Principality or here.

The address is dated from Perin Planina (Perin Dagh), numbered 212, and directed to a Bulgarian gentleman in this province. It bears ten signatures, countersigned and sealed by a person named Dragan, who styles himself "Chief of the Staff of the Macedonian Rebellion."

The contents are as follows:—

The Bulgarians of the Principality and Eastern Roumelia (male and female) are called upon to follow the example shown by the Russian clergy and professors during the occurrences in Southern Bulgaria in 1876, by forming Societies and branch Committees in towns and villages, with a view of collecting money, clothes, food, and arms, in aid of their suffering brothers in Macedonia, who are still groaning under an Asiatic yoke. While conferring full powers on the person to whom the document is addressed (his name is inserted in ordinary ink), a request is made that the money and goods collected should be forwarded to Rustchuk to Vasili Diamanieff, a member of the Court of Appeal and President of the Central League (the name, residence, and profession being likewise inserted here in ink). The address concludes by stating that the future of the whole Bulgarian people depends on the successful issue of the struggle which the Macedonian Bulgarians are carrying on with their traditional foes.

I avail myself of this opportunity to repeat to your Lordship the opinion, which I ventured to express in my despatch No. 321 of the 13th August, that the moderate party here, although opposed to any immediate political change, would be powerless to check the outbreak of a general movement for a union, should an armed deputation cross the Balkans, or the signal for general revolt be given by the Panslavist agitators.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure in No. 111.

Circular.

(Translation.)

Bulgaro-Macedonian League.
(Bulgarian arms—Lion rampant.)
Freedom or Death.
1880.

To Mr.

at

(No. 212.)

Perin Planina (Perin Dagh).

Bulgarian Brothers!

IN the name of your Macedonian brothers, who are still suffering under the same Asiatic yoke, from which you yourselves have only so lately been delivered, we, the armed Bulgaro-Macedonian League, determined to shed the last drops of our blood in our struggle with our traditional foes, appeal to you from the heights of Perim Dagh, to

collect, as soon as possible, money, clothes, food, and arms, and to establish in each village and town in the Principality, and in Eastern Roumelia, branches of the Central Committee of the Bulgaro-Macedonian League, and to forward, without delay, the money and goods collected.

We beseech pastors and schoolmasters, and other patriots, not to neglect our appeal, for, as leaders of the people, they can render very valuable assistance in the collection of subscriptions. Let them follow the example of the Russian clergy and Professors, who, during the massacres in Southern Bulgaria in 1876, showed themselves so indefatigable in collecting aid in churches and elsewhere, and in making known, in sermons and speeches, the sad condition of our Bulgarian brothers. If our Russian brothers, far distant as they are, acted thus, how much more ought you to assist in freeing your brothers in Macedonia, whose condition is far more dreadful.

We likewise appeal to our Bulgarian sisters, who can best render service by organizing lotteries, concerts, and balls, in aid of the desperate struggle which our unfortunate Bulgarian brothers in Macedonia are waging for freedom.

We therefore recommend male and female branch Committees of the Central Bulgaro-Macedonian Society.

In conferring full powers upon you we request you (Mr. ——), in behalf of the Central Bulgar-Macedonian League, which is acting in the name of all the Macedonian Bulgarians, to establish, not only in towns, but also in villages, branches of this benevolent Society, appointing to each a President, Cashier, Secretary, as well as members and agents, and we request you to forward the money and goods collected to the President of the Bulgar-Macedonia League (at Rustchuk, Vasili Diamanieff, a Member of the Court of Appeal).

We count upon shortly receiving assistance; our fate depends up it. Thereby alone can we carry on the contest which we are waging with our foes, who have tyrannized over us for five centuries. This struggle leads to freedom or death. On its successful issue depends the future of the whole Bulgarian people.

We remain, &c.

(Signed) DEDOIM, *Chief Leader.*
(Leaders.)
DIMITRI DEBRANETS.
+ILIA VEROVATS.
Captain GORNAI.
GEORGI KREMENIR.
+KOGO LOUTA.
KOUGAGITCH.
+TODOR.
+YORANTCHOFF, *Secretary to Hadjieff.*

(Chief of the Staff of the Macedonian Rebellion.)
(Signed) DRAGAN, *Chief of the Staff.*

No. 112.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 5.*)

(No. 392.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 27, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rustchuk respecting the suppression of the "Tidjaret," and the steps taken by the foreign Consuls there in consequence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 112.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Rustchuk, September 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that lately there was an important lawsuit, brought by an Italian subject against a native defendant. The petition of the Italian was sent

by his Consul to the Prefect, to be transmitted to the proper authority, which in this case was the Commercial Court or Tidjaret.

It was informally known that the Tidjaret no longer existed as a separate Court, but it was anticipated that the Court of First Instance, which substituted itself for the Tidjaret, would be constituted like it, *i.e.*, with Assessors named by the Consul.

The plaintiff was represented by an advocate, accompanied by the Dragoman of his Consulate. They found that the case was to be heard before the ordinary Civil Tribunal, without any Assessors, and that the Dragoman was not to be allowed to take part in the proceedings, as by right he should; they therefore protested and left. Then judgment was at once given against them.

In consequence of the foregoing, the Italian Consul convoked a meeting of all his colleagues to ask their advice, or rather, to ascertain if they had any orders how to act in such an emergency. After having stated his case, the Russian Consul at once rose to reply, evidently well prepared. The substance of his remarks was, that as there was not sufficient business in Rustchuk for a Tidjaret, it had been suppressed from motives of economy, and that it would be much better for all concerned to acquiesce in accomplished facts, for, if the Civil Court was accepted and the litigants were not satisfied with its decision, they could have their appeal, whereas no appeal had been provided from the Tidjaret.

The Austrian Consul very properly replied that we were not considering the abstract advantages or disadvantages of one form of procedure or another; that our business was to see that the legal course, as prescribed by the capitulations and usages, was followed; whereupon the Russian Consul at once commenced another speech, saying he was quite at one with us, and that till the Bulgarian Government arranged with the Representatives of the Powers at Sophia, we should resist any attempt of irresponsible local authorities to suppress the capitulations, and that we should go to the President of the Court and tell him so. When he had got thus far, I asked him if he was in official relations with the Court. He said, "Oh, yes; if he told the Court that they were wrong, he had no doubt they would take his advice"—which I believe to be perfectly the case. I replied that, having already refused to accept the Circular of ex-Governor Ivanoff respecting our transacting business directly with the various minor authorities, I would not consent to make any representation except to the Prefect. He then agreed to this, admitting it to be the only proper course, and the meeting decided that each one, for his own account, should see the Prefect, and ascertain from him if any orders respecting the Tidjaret had been received from Sophia, and if so, what was their nature.

Afterwards, I arranged to go to the Prefect along with my Italian and Austrian coegues.

The Prefect informed us that the Tidjaret had been suppressed before his arrival, but that the form of procedure had not been changed; that the Assessors named by the Consuls, in conformity to an invitation to that effect by the ex-Governor Ackimoff, ought to have been there, and that the assistance of the Dragoman ought to have been allowed; that he would try to arrange for a new trial with these conditions.

On the following day he, along with the President of the Court, called on me, but unfortunately I was out. They also called on the Austrian Consul, and explained to him that in future no opposition would be made to the Assessors or Dragoman; that, in fact, there would be a Commercial Division of the Civil Court, which would work exactly like the Tidjaret.

Having got matters arranged, as we thought, it was rather annoying, several days later, to have the whole subject thrown back exactly where it was by the receipt of a note from the Court at the Italian Consulate, translation of which into French I now beg to give:—

"Le Conseil ayant en vue:—

"1. Que dans le Code de Commerce il n'y a aucun Article concernant les membres-assesseurs nommés par les Consuls.

"2. Que l'usage des Juges-Assesseurs existe à Constantinople où les étrangers ne peuvent pas profiter de l'appel, mais seulement de la requête civile, ce qui n'a pas lieu en Bulgarie.

"3. Que d'après les Capitulations les étrangers n'ont d'autre privilège que de se faire assister par le Dragman du Consulat d'où ils relèvent.

"4. Que si l'usage des Juges-Assesseurs a été admis dans le Tribunal de Commerce de Roustchouk, le Tribunal Civil ne peut pas l'admettre sans un ordre formel du Ministère de la Justice.

"5. Que les observations à ce sujet ont été seulement faites par le fondé de pouvoirs du plaignant, droit qui aurait été réservé au Consul.

"6. Que le Vice-Consul d'Italie n'a jamais fait de telles observations.

"7. Que le Drogman du Vice-Consulat d'Italie n'a rien dit à ce sujet.

"8. Que plusieurs affaires ont été débattues jusqu'à présent sans qu'aucune d'elles ont donné lieu à de pareilles observations.

"9. Et qu'enfin aucune instruction à ce sujet n'a été donnée par le Ministère de la Justice.

"Pour ces motives, &c., &c., &c."

I have had occasion to mention in many despatches the persistent *officieuse* action of the Russian authorities, invariably tending to subvert the capitulations and the Treaty of Berlin; the present is only another flagrant instance of the same pushing on the Bulgars from behind.

The arguments of the Court are exactly those of the Russian Consul up to No. 4 and including No. 8, and from many circumstances I believe that the course of procedure was regulated beforehand by the Russian Consul, who, it is impossible to conceal from oneself, is the authority in this country which directs everything.

I wish to give here my most emphatic testimony in favour of the capitulations which an experience of seven years teaches me can be worked perfectly well. I have never known an instance of abuse, nor can I believe it possible as long as the Consul is a *bonâ fide* subject of the Power he represents; the only difficulty is where some Powers, from motives of mistaken economy, entrust Consulates, or at least Vice-Consulates, to Levantines, who, having their own private business to look after as their first object, are not always very scrupulous how they do it, and take any advantage they can from their official position to strain the capitulations.

It is not to be expected that a Court composed of ignorant and badly paid Bulgars whose best members are ex-ticket clerks of the railway or small publicans, can administer law or even justice if any one of the litigants is disposed to back his claim by a little gold, and certainly this is not the moment to abolish the capitulations.

If these were necessary with the Turkish Government, which had at least in many cases capable functionaries, they are ten times more necessary with the Bulgarian which has none, and cannot in the nature of things have any for a generation at least.

Were any other proof needed of what I have advanced, it is furnished by the preceding note (see Nos. 5, 6, and 7), where they seek to justify their confessedly improper action by small quibbles about the person who objected, which I am informed are not even true, but, if they were, would not justify them; and especially by No. 9, which shows that the superior authority at Sophia had not any conception of what it was doing in abolishing a Court without providing a substitute.

It is not because the Government of a country changes its name from Mahommedan to Christian that it becomes more honest or more capable; unfortunately, in the East it is very much the contrary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 113.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 398.) *Therapia, September 27, 1880.*

My Lord,

IN my telegram No. 247, I had the honour to inform your Lordship that the self-denying Protocol had been signed by the Representatives of the Six Powers on the 21st instant.

It was thought, however, that each of the Signatory Powers ought to have a signed "example" for their archives, and accordingly six copies of the document have been prepared and signed by the Representatives, and I forward herewith the one intended for Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Protocol signed at Constantinople, September 21, 1880.

LES Gouvernements représentés par les Soussignés, afin de prouver l'entier désintéressement avec lequel ils poursuivent l'exécution de toutes les stipulations du Traité de Berlin, s'engagent à ne rechercher dans aucun arrangement qui pourrait intervenir comme conséquence de leur action concertée pour l'exécution du dit Traité en ce qui concerne la question Monténégrine, et eventuellement la question Grecque, aucune augmentation de territoire, aucune influence exclusive, ni aucun avantage commercial en faveur de leurs sujets qui ne serait pas également obtenu par ceux de toute autre nation.

Fait à Constantinople, ce 21 Séptembre, 1880.

(Signé) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.
V. HATZFELDT.
CALICE.
TISSOT.
N. CORTI.
NOVIKOW.

No. 114.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 400. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 27, 1880.*

I HAD the honour to receive with your Lordship's despatch No. 475 of the 16th instant a copy of Sir H. Elliot's Very Confidential despatch No. 551 of the 9th instant, relative to the intrigues of M. Zerboni, the Italian Consul at Scutari, in creating difficulties to the surrender of Dulcigno to Montenegro.

With reference to this matter, I beg leave to state emphatically to your Lordship, though it is scarcely necessary to do so, that it is certain that the Italian Ambassador here was exceedingly annoyed at the alleged proceedings of M. Zerboni.

Count Corti has told me that it had been his intention, when at the Head of the Foreign Department in Rome, to have removed M. Zerboni to some post in England where he would have had no scope for his intriguing, and he evidently thinks that it was a great mistake that M. Zerboni should have been left at Scutari.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 115.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 401. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 27, 1880.*

A SOMEWHAT curious incident occurred at the meeting of the Ambassadors held to consider the draft of the collective note on the question of the Montenegrin frontier, which was signed yesterday evening.

The Russian Ambassador, who had been very critical throughout our proceedings, took objection to the passage in the note which states that the sole object of the Powers in these negotiations had been to obtain from the Ottoman Government the execution of the Treaty of Berlin. When these words were read out, M. Novikow exclaimed with some vehemence that he could not commit his Government to such a phrase. If language were held to the Porte emphasizing the demand for the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, the Turks might turn round upon us and claim the execution of the whole. That would raise very difficult questions.

I pretended some astonishment, and asked for an illustration.

M. Novikow hurriedly said, "Why, the occupation of the Balkans, or other Roumelian difficulties."

"Then, would the Turks be right," I asked, "to say that the execution of the Treaty was to be unilateral?"

M. Novikow, however, only murmured words to the effect that he could not commit his Government to language speaking of the execution of the Treaty of Berlin generally. When it was pointed out to him that the phrase in question was preceded and limited by the words, "during the whole course of these negotiations," which referred only to the Montenegrin frontier, his Excellency was pacified, and consented to pass the words.

I think it due to M. Novikow to state that this incident occurred towards the close of a very long sitting, in which, finding himself without instructions, he had had a difficult part to play, and that he had wearied himself out by dwelling at great length on every possible point in the discussion; yet this glimpse he gave of the mode in which he regards the Treaty of Berlin seemed to me important enough to make it my duty to report it to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 116.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 402.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 27, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 390 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy and English translation of the collective note addressed to Assym Pasha yesterday by the Representatives of the Signatory Powers in reply to his Excellency's note of the 22nd instant respecting the surrender of Dulcigno.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 116.

The Representatives of the Powers Signatory to the Treaty of Berlin at Constantinople to Assym Pasha.

Therapia, le 26 Septembre, 1880.

LES Soussignés, Ambassadeurs d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Russie, ont reçu et transmis à leurs Gouvernements respectifs la note en date du 22 de ce mois par laquelle la Sublime Porte, en répondant à leur dernière communication, leur a fait connaître les conditions auxquelles elle entendait subordonner la cession de Dulcigno.

Les Soussignés auraient à faire de sérieuses réserves quant aux inexactitudes contenues dans la partie de ce document qui a trait à l'historique des négociations.

Ils s'abstiennent de les formuler et bien qu'ils aient également le droit et jusqu'à un certain point le devoir de relever certaines expressions qui leur prouvent que la Sublime Porte n'a pas un sentiment exact de sa situation vis-à-vis des Puissances, ils préfèrent passer sur la forme insolite de la communication de son Excellence Assym Pacha et répondre immédiatement aux conclusions qui la résument.

En ce qui concerne la première des conditions indiquées par la note du 22 Septembre, c'est-à-dire l'abandon de toute démonstration navale, les Soussignés constatent qu'elle est absolument inacceptable.

Aucune Puissance ne saurait aliéner ni limiter le droit inhérent à sa souveraineté de faire usage de ses forces au moment ou elle peut le juger nécessaire, et tous les Cabinets se réservent à cet égard une entière liberté d'appréciation et d'action. Quant au deuxième point visé dans la note Turque et relatif aux garanties demandées par la Sublime Porte en ce qui concerne la sécurité personnelle, la propriété, et la religion des habitants des territoires cédés au Monténégro, les Puissances sont d'autant plus disposées à donner satisfaction au Gouvernement Ottoman que les Articles XXVII et XXX du Traité de Berlin répondent déjà à ses préoccupations. Elles sont prêtes, le cas échéant, à formuler et compléter ces garanties par une déclaration spéciale.

Pour ce qui regarde les deux points compris dans la troisième condition, les Puissances sont dans la nécessité de maintenir, en ce qui concerne la ligne-frontière, les conclusions indiquées dans la note collective du 15 Septembre; mais elles s'engagent volontiers, dès que la Porte aura accepté et exécuté les conditions posées dans cette communication, à ne demander aucune autre cession territoriale en faveur de Monténégro.

Les Puissances ne se sont proposé qu'un seul but dans tout le cours de cette négociation, celui d'obtenir du Gouvernement Ottoman l'exécution du Traité de Berlin.

C'est dans l'espoir de faciliter à la Sublime Porte l'accomplissement de ses obligations qu'elles ont consenti (? à modifier) à deux reprises les clauses de ce Traité relatives à la modification de la frontière Monténégrine.

Le Gouvernement Ottoman n'a pas su s'acquitter des engagements qu'il avait contractés.

Les Puissances protestent donc unanimement contre les résistances qu'il oppose à leurs légitimes demandes, et font peser sur lui la responsabilité des conséquences qui peuvent en résulter.

(Signé) HATZFELDT.
CALICE.
C. TISSOT.
GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.
CORTI.
NOVIKOFF.

(Translation.)

Therapia, September 26, 1880.

THE Undersigned, Ambassadors of Germany, Austro-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Italy, and Russia have received and forwarded to their respective Governments the note dated the 22nd instant, in which the Sublime Porte, in replying to their last communication, informs them of the conditions under which the cession of Dulcigno will be made.

The Undersigned might take serious exception to the inaccuracies contained in that part of this note which relates to the history of the negotiations.

They refrain, however, from enumerating them, and although it is both their right, and, to a certain extent, their duty, to notice certain expressions which prove to them that the Sublime Porte does not realize its position as regards the Powers, they prefer to pass over the unusual form of the communication of his Excellency Assym Pasha, and reply at once to the conclusions of which it is a summary.

As regards the first condition mentioned in the note of the 22nd September, namely, the abandonment of any kind of naval demonstration, the Undersigned declare that it is totally unacceptable.

No Power can alienate nor limit the right inherent to its sovereignty to use its forces whenever it considers it necessary to do so, and all the Cabinets reserve on this point entire liberty both of appreciation and of action.

As regards the second point raised in the Turkish note, relative to the guarantees asked by the Sublime Porte for the personal security, the property, and the religion of the inhabitants of the territory ceded to Montenegro, the Powers are most willing to satisfy the Ottoman Government, the more so as Articles XXVII and XXX of the Berlin Treaty already meet the points with regard to which anxiety is expressed. They are willing, if necessary, to place on record and perfect these guarantees by a joint declaration.

As regards the two points raised in the third condition, the Powers must maintain the terms of the collective note of the 15th September as to the frontier-line, but if the Sublime Porte accepts and executes the conditions laid down in that note they gladly undertake to ask no further territorial cession in favour of Montenegro.

The only object the Powers have had in view during the whole course of these negotiations has been to obtain from the Ottoman Government the execution of the Treaty of Berlin. It was in the hope of facilitating the execution of the engagements of the Sublime Porte that the Powers have, on two occasions, agreed to modify the conditions of the Treaty as regards the modification of the Montenegrin frontier.

The Ottoman Government have, however, failed to meet their engagements.

The Powers protest unanimously against the opposition made by the Porte to their legitimate demands, and make the Ottoman Government responsible for the consequences that may ensue.

The Undersigned avail themselves, &c.,
(Signed) HATZFELDT.
CALICE.
C. TISSOT.
GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.
CORTI.
NOVIKOFF.

No. 117.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville. (*Received October 5.*)

(No. 406.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 28, 1880.*

MR. STEPHEN'S despatch No. 320, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, respecting the engagement of the Russian sergeants, which forms the subject of your Lordship's despatch No. 160, had not failed to attract my serious attention. I have, on many occasions, endeavoured to ascertain the real meaning of the officering of the East Roumeliau militia by Russian officers and non-commissioned officers, and the degree of importance that ought to be attached to this fact as an indication of Russian or Bulgarian policy.

It has been admitted to me by almost the highest authority, that more than half of the officers of the Roumelian militia are Russian, and that even this proportion did not adequately convey the exact situation, for the proportion is highest in the more important ranks, and I think I am not overstating the case if I say that, to all intents and purposes, the Eastern Roumelian militia may be taken to be officered by Russians. When reports have reached this Embassy of the engagement of a certain number of these officers, it has generally been explained that they were to replace others who were leaving the service, and to a great extent this has been true. Nor would it be right to overlook the fact that there may be a perfectly natural, as well as a political, explanation of the state of things which I have described.

The similarity of the Russian and Bulgarian languages makes it much more convenient for officers of the former nationality to be employed than any other foreigners. They are understood at once by the men under their command, and by their brother officers; and, further, the more the Russians have monopolized this branch of the service, the less attraction does it offer to other foreigners, who would find themselves not amongst a body of officers belonging to the country which might invite them, but amongst men who are equally foreigners in a certain sense, but really in command of the army, and exercising an exclusive influence in it. Other foreigners would probably find themselves in an uncomfortable position. General Strecker himself was at first disposed to hold his own, and to resist Russian influence, but as Mr. Stephen has related, and as I have heard confirmed from other sources, General Strecker has found that his only chance of maintaining his position was to cast in his lot with Russian influence.

The events of the late war left the Russians in the position of military instructors to the Roumelians, and it must, in fairness, not be forgotten that the Roumelians had no officers themselves. They experienced the same difficulty as to their militia as they have experienced in their civil and judicial services, of being absolutely without trained men. Language, convenience, and the facilities offered in the first instance by the presence of Russians in Eastern Roumelia at the close of the war, thus supplied strong motives for the officering of the Roumelian militia by Russians, even irrespective of sinister political designs.

The substitution of Russian non-commissioned officers for natives can, however, not be explained by reasoning like the above. The natural tendency of the Government of the province would be to utilize Russians only so long as the supply of qualified natives was deficient, and the apprehensions of the Governor-General himself, who is reported to be deeply vexed at this introduction of non-commissioned officers from Russia, are, I understand, shared by many of the moderate party in the province.

I do not feel convinced that the steps lately taken are due simply to a Pan-Bulgarian propaganda. Probably the powerful Russian military element which has established itself in the militia of the province is strong enough to carry the point on alleged military grounds, but it is none the less important.

In a friendly conversation between M. de Novikow and myself some weeks ago, I took an opportunity, in a semi-jocular manner, to allude to Captain Eck's position at Philippopoli. "What a strange thing," I said, "it is for you to have a military attaché in a province which may not keep an army." To my surprise M. de Novikow denied that Captain Eck was a military attaché. On this I inquired what his position was. His Excellency replied that, as there were so many Russians amongst the militia officers in Roumelia, it was important to have a Russian officer to whom they could look up, and who would be in a position to superintend their morals ("surveiller leurs mœurs").

Surprising as it may appear to your Lordship, his Excellency made this remark in absolute seriousness.

M. de Novikow seemed anxious to discover what had suggested my remark about

Captain Eck, but I only repeated that I had been amused at the idea of a military attaché in a province not entitled to an army.

I can scarcely exaggerate to your Lordship the nervous susceptibility which the Russian Ambassador displays when allusion is made to this class of subjects.

In accordance with your Lordship's instructions, I address a despatch to Mr. Stephen directing him to make a formal representation to the Governor-General in regard to the proceedings as to the engagement of the Russian sergeants, and the steps taken by General Strecker to fill high military appointments exclusively with Russian officers, proceedings which are directly in opposition to the spirit of the XVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 118.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 5.*)

(No. 408.)

My Lord, *Therapia, September 28, 1880.*

THE telegrams which I have had the honour to address to your Lordship since the last messenger left will have shown your Lordship that I am unable to report any favourable change in the situation here as regards the attitude of the Porte in the Montenegrin question. Since the fall of Kadri Pasha no symptom whatever has been apparent of any desire on the part of the Sultan or the Porte to meet the wishes of Europe, or to avert the crisis which all the wiser advisers of His Majesty must have told him will inevitably ensue from continued resistance.

It may be considered as absolutely certain that the Sultan has taken the whole management into his own hands to a degree unparalleled even in his own reign, and the Ambassadors are in the position of having no one with whom they can negotiate, or to whom they can even state their views with any degree of confidence that they will be understood or repeated intelligibly to the Sultan or the Council of Ministers.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has no influence whatever. He is respectable and honest, but it is practically considered useless to speak to him on business.

With regard to the Prime Minister, his attitude is so enigmatical that my colleagues and myself have also felt it to be of little avail to communicate with him personally.

Your Lordship will remember that I had a long interview with him on the 21st instant, as reported in my telegram No. 238. I was entitled to gather from his conversation that he was distinctly prepared to cease to insist on the acceptance of the *statu quo* line as a condition of the surrender of Dulcigno, and that he would have been content with a conditional assurance holding out the prospect of the naval demonstration not taking place if Dulcigno were given, without any actual pledge being included which would tie the hands of the Powers. Yet he returned from his interview with me to the Great Council, which, under his presidency, endorsed, a few hours afterwards, the policy dictated apparently by the Sultan, under which, not only was a distinct declaration to be demanded that no naval demonstration should be made if Dulcigno were immediately given up, but an official and categorical pledge to be insisted on that the Powers would abandon the principle of naval demonstrations for all questions both for the present and the future, while the cession of Dulcigno was further to be made absolutely dependent on the acceptance by the Powers of the *statu quo* line, notwithstanding the distinct rejection of the latter frontier in the note just received from the Ambassadors by the Porte.

Accordingly, it is clear that Said Pasha was either deceiving me—though with what object it is difficult to see, considering that steps inconsistent with his statements appear to have been already finally adopted by the Sultan before he spoke to me—or that his influence with the Grand Council was at this juncture practically at an end.

I have informed your Lordship that, besides Kadri Pasha, Khaireddin Pasha and Safvet Pasha strongly opposed the uncompromising answer to the Powers which was submitted for the ratification of the Council.

I have since heard that two or three others likewise spoke against the violent course proposed, while nearly the whole of the Council were opposed to the form of the communication.

The real point at issue, however, was whether Dulcigno should be immediately and unconditionally surrendered, with a simple request to the Powers to deal indulgently with the Porte afterwards, or whether the cession was to be refused unless the conditions

asked for were granted. The latter course, on which the Sultan had apparently entirely made up his mind before, was approved by the great majority.

It has excited much comment that Mahmoud Nedim was included in that majority and has since received a signal mark of his Sovereign's favour, in the shape of the highest decoration that can be bestowed.

It has reached the ears of Mahmoud Nedim that I and other Ambassadors have commented strongly on this fact, and it seems to have somewhat disturbed his mind, as his Highness is anxious to stand well with the European Powers. He caused me to be indirectly asked whether I had really held him to be responsible, as had been reported to him, for the policy of resistance. I informed his friend who came to me that I had not heard that Mahmoud Nedim Pasha had urged the Sultan to resist, but that Kadri and Abédine Pashas had refused to sign the obnoxious document, and had been dismissed; that Mahmoud Nedim Pasha had signed it and been decorated; and that, being a man possessing very great influence, Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, in consenting to a policy likely to bring about disastrous consequences to the Empire, had incurred a grave responsibility towards Europe. It was perhaps, even yet, not too late to remedy, to some extent, the evil he had done. We should watch his course.

I mention these facts to your Lordship as showing the attitude of the leading Turkish statesmen at this critical moment of their history, but not with any wish to lead your Lordship to suppose that the fate of the question to be decided is in their hands. Said Pasha and Mahmoud Nedim Pasha are the two statesmen who, at any other time, might possibly have more influence than any other men. Both are, apparently, afraid to come forward, and to oppose the fatal course on which the Sultan is embarked.

I ought to have added that Said Pasha kept very quiet during the Council, and did not pronounce himself strongly in either direction.

Many believe that the Prime Minister is actually urging the Sultan on, and that he is only showing a semblance of moderation, to deceive the Ambassadors. This is perfectly possible; but I am inclined to think that, being a man of very great intelligence, he now recognizes the immense danger which the Turkish Empire is incurring, and only signs the necessary documents to preserve the Sultan's favour.

His Highness paid visits to all the Ambassadors last Friday. He made use of such phrases as, "Could nothing be done? Were there no means of effecting a compromise?" and so forth; but he had nothing to propose, and did not seem to have any policy. On the whole, he tried to convey the impression that he regretted the tone of the last note of the Porte.

Meanwhile His Majesty himself has been busily engaged in communicating with some of the Ambassadors direct. Before the decision of the Council was known, the French Aide-de-camp of the Sultan was sent round, late one night, to the French, the German, and the Austrian Ambassadors, to state to them the four conditions on which alone Dulcigno could be surrendered, and the French Ambassador was told that His Majesty would sooner perish than yield. The choice of the Ambassadors to be visited was apparently determined by the Sultan's view of the measure of the respective pliancy of their different Governments on this particular question. The separate instructions to the French Admiral were, as has often happened with important and delicate questions, revealed somehow or other to the Turkish Agents abroad. I have telegraphed to your Lordship how, just as the French Ambassador was leaving the Palace, after dining with the Sultan, he was fetched back, in order to hear the decision at which His Majesty had arrived. Also how the German Ambassador was suddenly summoned by the Sultan to have the same arguments repeated to him over and over again.

Your Lordship is aware of the telegram sent by the Sultan to the German Emperor.

Artin Effendi, the Under-Secretary of State, and recognized as the intimate friend of Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, visited several of the Ambassadors the day before yesterday, myself amongst the number, ostensibly of his own accord, to sound us as to whether some concession could not, or would not, be made. He stated to me that he was now in favour at the Palace, and could put anything before His Majesty which I might wish to communicate, a remark which, of course, suggests that he, too, may have been sent with the approval of His Majesty, especially as the movements of all functionaries at this moment are carefully watched.

Your Lordship will gather from the above observations how irregularly the whole of the negotiations are being conducted, and how entirely all regular Government seems to be at an end. This situation makes it all the more necessary for the Ambassadors to make all their more important communications in writing, so that it may be fairly certain that His Majesty may be informed thereof.

We were much influenced by this consideration when we determined on Sunday to embody the separate instructions which we had received as to the answer which should be given to the Porte, in a collective note, though we had no precise instructions to do so. It seemed essential that the answer should be joint, and that it should be given in a form which would ensure its being submitted instantaneously to His Majesty.

I trust your Lordship will approve this step.

The Turkish Government expected an answer, and until it was given they continued speculating on the chance that the views of the Powers on the conditions which it had put forward would not be unanimous or unequivocal. The language we used, as your Lordship will perceive by the copy of the note which I have inclosed in a separate despatch, was very plain, but in view of the extraordinary tone of the last note of the Porte, no other language seemed admissible.

I need not trouble your Lordship with any observations as to the action taken by the Turkish Government as regards instructions to Veli Riza Pasha, and the authorities at Scutari and Dulcigno, as your Lordship has been informed by Mr. Green of what has taken place, so fas as it can be ascertained.

Here I have been unable to obtain any authentic intelligence as to the instructions sent, or even the news received. Said Pasha made the extraordinary statement to me a few days ago that he had no knowledge of what Riza Pasha had telegraphed the day before. The telegrams went to the Minister of War, and he himself had heard nothing. On my expressing my astonishment he stated that the functions of the Prime Minister mainly consisted in presiding at the Council.

But the great issue at the present moment in the Sultan's mind is not the cession of Dulcigno, nor the question of the frontier-line. It is the application of what the Turks now call "the principle" of naval demonstration. It appears that His Majesty has come to the conclusion that if this principle is carried into practice he will in future be at the mercy of the European concert, and that he may as well resist the principle at the beginning as later on. All the evidence points to the fact that it is this conviction which has led the Sultan to adopt the extraordinarily aggressive tone which has marked the last two documents issued by the Porte. I observe that Baron Kallay stated his opinion to Sir H. Elliot that the latest conditions put forward by the Porte need not receive serious attention, as they were probably only announced in order to gain time. Scarcely any of the Representatives of the Great Powers here hold this opinion. In the judgment of the Sultan it is a struggle for sovereignty, not only for time, in which he is engaged. The extreme rigour with which he insisted on a literal translation of his protest, the language of his emissaries, his own communications to the Ambassadors whom he has lately seen, all prove the existence in his mind of a deep-seated alarm as to the consequences to his Empire of a naval demonstration, and his personal determination to resist it at all hazards.

The contest with the Ottoman Government has accordingly entered upon a new phase, and there can be no doubt that it is no longer certain points in the Treaty of Berlin which are at issue, but the whole of the relations of the Ottoman Empire to the Great Powers of Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 119.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 409. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, September 28, 1880.*

IN continuation of my despatch No. 401, Very Confidential, of yesterday, on a remark made by M. Novikoff about the execution of the Berlin Treaty, I beg to say that I have been secretly informed that the Sultan stated to a gentleman with whom he is very intimate, but whose name I am not authorized to reveal, that in the answer of the German Emperor to his personal telegram a kind of invitation was made to the Sultan to raise the question of the unexecuted parts of the Treaty of Berlin which told in favour of Turkey, especially as regards the occupation of the Balkans, with a hint that Germany and Austria were disposed to back the Sultan's rights in this respect. It is possible, I am sorry to say, that the Sultan may not have been particularly accurate in this communication, for similar statements made by him have sometimes proved far from accurate, still the matter is one which I feel bound to report.

I was much struck by the language held by M. de Kállay to Sir Henry Elliot, as reported in the despatch of the latter dated the 9th September, in regard to the alleged contrast between the course which had been followed towards Turkey and that followed towards Bulgaria as regards the execution of the Treaty.

I should be glad if your Lordship would be good enough to let me be informed as to the opinion of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the question of the tributes due in respect of territory ceded under the Treaty of Berlin. When the financial situation of the Porte comes under the consideration of the Powers, as it must do very shortly, it will be essential to know how the financial questions, as regards both debt and tribute, pending between Turkey and some of the emancipated States and provinces are to be dealt with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 120.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 3.)

(No. 603.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 2, 1880.*

I REGRET to find, from a remark in Mr. Goschen's despatch No. 408, that I had not conveyed the meaning I intended when I reported Baron Kállay to be of opinion that the late conditions put forward by the Sultan had only been made in order to gain time, and need not, therefore, receive serious attention, which opinion, Her Majesty's Ambassador observes, is not shared by the Representatives at Constantinople, who consider the Sultan to be engaged in a struggle for sovereignty, and not only for time.

I am unwilling that, from any ambiguity in my Report of my conversation with M. de Kállay, a wrong impression should be received, for the meaning that his words conveyed to me were, that the Sultan's professions of his wish to satisfy the Powers need not be taken seriously, as they were probably only made with the view of gaining time, with the intention of continuing his resistance to their demands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 121.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, October 5.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Sublime Porte, le 27 Septembre, 1880.*

J'AI pris connaissance de votre Rapport du 2 Septembre, ainsi que de l'imprimé y annexé, contenant le Rapport de la Commission d'Enquête sur les événements d'Aïdos.

Tout en vous remerciant de la communication de ce Rapport, je ne puis ne pas vous faire observer que ses conclusions, quoique importantes, restent encore au-dessous de la vérité, surtout en ce qui concerne le degré de gravité des événements dont il s'agit et qui n'ont point eu l'origine qu'on veut leur attribuer. Quoi qu'il en soit, les faits, même réduits aux proportions indiquées par la dite Commission, donnent une idée de l'étendue des pertes éprouvées par les Musulmans et exigent une réparation adéquate.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 122.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 5.)

(Confidential.)
My Lord, *Admiralty, October 4, 1880.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to request you will lay before Earl Granville the inclosed copy of a letter, dated the 2nd instant, which has been addressed to Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour with respect to his proceedings in the Adriatic.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 122.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, October 2, 1880.*

IN confirmation of cypher telegram of yesterday's date, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you that your proceedings, as reported by letter and telegraph up to that date, are entirely approved by Her Majesty's Government.

2. My Lords desire that no further action may be taken with respect to the cession of Dulcigno, pending the receipt of further instructions, which instructions cannot be given at present.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 123.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 5.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, October 5, 1880.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the paraphrase of a telegram addressed to Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, dated 27th September, in reply to his telegram of the 24th September, asking permission to send a party on shore for signalling purposes on the advance of the Montenegrin troops, which telegram was communicated to you in my letter of the 25th September.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 123.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

(Telegraphic.) *Admiralty, September 27, 1880.*

WITH reference to the proposal contained in your telegram of the 25th, to land an officer with two signalmen, we consider that there would be risk incurred of their being cut off, and suggest that you should arrange with the Prince of Montenegro a simple mode for him to make known to you his movements and the position of the enemy.

No. 124.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 5.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, October 5, 1880.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extracts from a despatch of Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, dated the 28th September from Gravosa, reporting the condition of affairs up to that date.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 124.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
(Extract.) *Gravosa, September* 28, 1880.

IN continuation of my confidential letter on the state of affairs in Montenegro and Northern Albania of the 25th September, 1880, I have the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that at 11·20 P.M. of that day, immediately after the Italian aviso—the "Barbarigo"—had sailed for Brindisi with the mails, a telegram from the Prince of Montenegro marked Most Urgent, was delivered to me, by which His Highness stated that, in consideration of a change that had occurred in the state of affairs both political and military since we had parted on the morning of the 24th, it became absolutely necessary that an Envoy in his confidence should confer with me without delay, and that M. Radonich, his Minister for Foreign Affairs, would proceed without loss of time to Cattaro on his hearing that I would send one of Her Majesty's ships under my orders there to meet him.

2. In compliance with this requisition the "Falcon" was instantly ordered to get up steam, and at 2 A.M. of the 26th she left Gravosa for Cattaro.

3. During the course of the day all arrangements were made for the united fleet under my command to put to sea at 1·30 P.M. of the 27th, the code of signals was distributed, order of sailing prepared, and I only waited the return of the "Helicon" from a reconnaissance of the coast between Antivari and 5 miles south of Dulcigno, on which she had been dispatched at 10 P.M. on the 25th, with the officers named in the margin* on board to assign their several positions on the 29th to the gun-vessels, and to the corvettes "Victoria" (German), and "Jemstchoug" (Russian), as coverers to the right flank of the Montenegrin army.

The "Falcon" returned to Gravosa during the night of the 26th, and at 9·30 A.M. on the 27th I received M. Radonich, who delivered to me the important letter, the contents of which were at once communicated by telegram to the Admiralty, and which were laid before my colleagues at a conference held on board the "Alexandra" one hour afterwards, the letter was accompanied by a copy of that addressed by Riza Pasha, Governor-General of Scutari, to the Montenegrin General.

4. As their Lordships will have observed, the Prince of Montenegro coupled his profession of his readiness to advance with a declaration that before doing so His Highness felt himself under the necessity of requesting the Powers to inform him whether, in this conflict, he could count on a more efficacious support from them, both political and military, than that of a naval demonstration as at present limited. It therefore became necessary, in this altered position of affairs, to countermand the sailing of the fleet, and to refer to our several Governments for further instructions.

Inclosure 2 in No. 124.

The Prince of Montenegro to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

My Lord, *Cettinjé, le* $\frac{14}{26}$ *Septembre,* 1880.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir par télégraphe la teneur de votre lettre par laquelle votre Excellence veut bien m'annoncer le prochain départ de la flotte combinée pour Dulcigno, en m'invitant de faire marcher mes troupes dans ce district, et en m'avertissant que l'appui que la flotte réunie est autorisée à me prêter exclue l'éventualité d'un débarquement.

Un événement très-grave vient de modifier l'état des choses qui avait formé la base de nos pourparlers pendant le séjour de votre Excellence à Cettinjé.

Par lettre en date du 23 courant, que j'ai l'honneur de joindre ci-près, en copie, le Commandant Ottoman, Riza Pacha, nous déclare que si les troupes Monténégrines avançaient dans les frontières de Dulcigno il les attaquerait.

* List of officers engaged in reconnaissance in Her Majesty's dispatch vessel "Helicon" off coast between Antivari and five miles south of Dulcigno, September 26th:—
English.—Captain Lord Walter Kerr, "Alexandra;" Staff Commander Henry Hosken, "Alexandra;" Staff Commander John J. A. Gravener, "Téméraire;" and Lieutenant V. Caillard, R.E.
Italian.—Captain G. Manfredi, "Palestro."
Austrian.—Captain Nauta, "Custozza."
Russian.—Colonel Sologhoul, "Sverland;" Captain Valilky, "Jemstchoug."
German.—Captain Valois, "Victoria."

La situation est donc telle qu'il ne s'agit plus de combattre la résistance des bandes Albanaises, mais bien l'opposition formelle des troupes de la Sublime Porte.

D'après de nouvelles informations il nous revient que Riza Pacha a ordonné à toutes les montagnes de l'Albanie d'envoyer dans le plus bref délai leurs contingents à Dulcigno, et y a appelé en même temps six autres bataillons de réguliers campés à St. Jean de Medua.

Nous renforcerons en conséquence dans le plus bref délai nos troupes concentrées maintenant à Antivari, dégarnissant, dans la mesure du possible, notre frontière de l'autre côté du lac; et sur l'invitation de votre Excellence, my Lord, nous attaquerons les forces Ottomanes qui s'opposeraient à notre marche, mais ce sera la guerre avec la Turquie.

Nous acceptons cette situation, mais avant d'affronter l'action qui nous conduirait à une véritable lutte avec l'Empire Ottoman, nous sommes obligés de prier les Grandes Puissances de vouloir bien nous dire si dans ce conflit nous pouvons compter sur leur appui politique et militaire, plus efficace que celui d'une démonstration navale dans ses limites actuelles.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Prince de Monténégro,
(Signé) NICOLAS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 124.

Riza Pasha to Bozo Petrovich.

M. le Commandant, *Scutari, le* 23 *Septembre,* 1880.

JE viens d'apprendre qu'une concentration de troupes Monténégrines a lieu depuis quelques jours sur les frontières Ottomanes, et qu'elles augmentent de jour en jour. Vous n'ignorez certainement pas, je le crois, M. le Commandant, que le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman a soumis à l'approbation des Hautes Puissances les trois conditions formant la base de la cession et de l'évacuation de Dulcigno aux autorités du Monténégro. Des pourparlers sont entamés à ce propos entre la Sublime Porte et les Cabinets des Grandes Puissances. Ceci posé, je crois de mon devoir de vous déclarer, M. le Commandant, que je considérerai comme acte d'hostilité toute opération militaire avant que ces négociations aboutissent à un résultat satisfaisant, et avant que les ordres en conséquence me fussent parvenus pour vous en donner connaissance; que je me verrai dans la pénible nécessité de repousser la force par la force, en cas que l'on ne patienterait pas l'arrivée des dispositions nécessaires, laissant dès à présent aux autorités de la Principauté la responsabilité de tout empiétement.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Principauté de Monténégro, déclare que la présente est conforme à l'original.
(Signé) S. RADONICH.

No. 125.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 104. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October* 5, 1880.

I ASKED Minister for Foreign Affairs, on Sunday last, to consult Prince Bismarck on the subject of your Lordship's despatch No. 632 of the 1st instant, and his Excellency now tells me that Count Münster will be instructed to reply to it in detail.

Prince Bismarck says in sending German ship to Montenegro he stretched a point to support the concert, but that public opinion would not support him in taking part in any hostilities against Turkey.

He can therefore only support the concert morally, but not materially.

He thinks Austria would object to the employment of Russian or Italian forces in Montenegro, but not to an English intervention.

Reprisals, or the seizure of a material guarantee, will, in his opinion, fail to have the desired effect on the Porte.

The consequences of a demonstration at Constantinople would be so grave that he prefers not to pronounce any personal opinion upon it.

But Her Majesty's Government can reckon on his moral support in keeping the concert together.

No. 126.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cattaro, October 5, 1880.*

PLEASE address future telegrams to Her Majesty's ship "Alexandra," Baosich special telegraph station, Bocche di Cattaro, Dalmatia.

The Prince's son, a lad of 10, pays a private visit to the Admiral to-morrow. The English, French, Austrian, and Russian ships are in Cattaro; the German and Italian ships are expected this evening from Ragusa.

No. 127.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(No. 287.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 5, 1880.*

STEPHEN suggests a remonstrance against the sudden large increase in the force of Roumelian militia, which serves as an excuse for the acceptance of a further supply of Russian officers and non-commissioned officers. I am myself doubtful whether it is expedient to interfere at this particular moment.

No. 128.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5.)

(Personal.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 5, 1880.*

I HAVE kept back instructions to Stephen to protest against Russian officers in Eastern Roumelia, intending to write to you to-day, and to ask you to defer final decision till you received my letter, but I see matter is urgent.

General Streeker, Commandant of militia, has been here on leave. He satisfied Austrian Ambassador as to non-commissioned officers, positively declaring that, including fresh arrivals, number will be much less than it was a year ago; 150 had left the ranks by degrees. Commandant positively assured me that Bulgarian non-commissioned officers had not been refused re-engagement, but had been unwilling to remain on expiration of their time, though offered high terms. I think that Austrians would not join us in protesting.

Since the large questions have become so much more serious since you wrote despatch No. 460, I suspend acting on instructions till you inform me by telegraph that you still wish remonstrance to be made. It would almost be the first direct act in a new course, but doubtless there is very much to be urged in its favour.

No. 129.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5, 3 P.M.)

(No. 189.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 5, 1880, 1·15 P.M.*

BARON JOMINI tells me that Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Athens reports that Greeks are much excited, and fears that they will make a move next month to seize line accorded them by the Conference. The Greeks seem to think this a good moment to act, and if they are defeated that the Powers cannot help coming to their assistance.

No. 130.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5, 3·10 P.M.)

(No. 190.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 5, 1880, 1·30 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 761.

With reference to Lord Lyons' report that France thinks Montenegrin, Greek, and Armenian questions should be now treated as one whole, I think Russia will not agree to this. Baron Jomini has always said that each question should be kept separate, and I fear that on Armenian question Russian views may not agree with those of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 131.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5, 8·44 P.M.)

(No. 191.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 5, 1880, 6·30 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 766.

M. Jomini had not yesterday heard nature of Sultan's last answer, so I repeated to him the substance of Mr. Goschen's telegram.

Expressing merely his own opinion, as he had no instructions from Livadia, M. Jomini considers reply of Sultan unacceptable, and thinks the proposed movement to Smyrna would be excellent, if all the Powers agree, but on condition that, before making this step, the Powers should clearly make up their minds what to do next if the Sultan continues obstinate.

M. Jomini thinks it will only be successful if the Sultan knows that this movement to Smyrna will be followed up in the Dardanelles if necessary, and he fears the Powers will not all agree to such energetic measures. If the Powers are not determined to go further if necessary, he thinks that the movement to Smyrna would be a mistake. He fears that France will hang back, and that she may not like demonstration at Smyrna, which is so near Syra.

M. Jomini had had no telegrams for last two days, except one from M. d'Oubril, to whom Baron Haymerle had said that he would do all he could for Montenegro, except move one single Austrian soldier to help her.

No. 132.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5, 3 P.M.)

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October 5, 1880, 1·30 P.M.*

I HAVE communicated to French Minister for Foreign Affairs the views of Her Majesty's Government respecting the Turkish note, and have left with him a memorandum of the substance of your telegram No. 533.

He cannot answer until he has consulted his colleagues.

Personally he did not appear to dislike the Smyrna proposal.

No. 133.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5, 5·40 P.M.)

(No. 139.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 5, 1880.*

YOUR telegram No. 694.

Italian Cabinet are at this moment considering proposal of Her Majesty's Government as to transferring fleets to Smyrna, and holding it as a guarantee. Count Maffei highly approves of the proposal, and says, could his voice alone decide the matter, he would at once concur, and go with Her Majesty's Government, "through thick and thin." He considers the Porte's note as an insult to the Powers.

I hope to telegraph this afternoon decision of Italian Government.

No. 134.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 5, 6·23 P.M.)

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 5*, 1880, 4·55 P.M.

ITALIAN Government fully accept English proposal, namely, to send the allied squadron to Smyrna, and hold that port as a material guarantee, subject to the adhesion of the Powers and the conditions of the self-denying Protocol.

No. 135.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 642.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 5*, 1880, 8·45 P.M.

YOUR telegram of to-day marked Personal.

Her Majesty's Government concur in your suspending action on my despatch No. 460.

No. 136.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 549. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 5*, 1880.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram, marked "Personal," of the 5th instant, stating that you had not acted on the instructions contained in my despatch No. 460 of the 15th ultimo, in which your Excellency was requested to instruct Mr. Stephen to protest against the engagement of Russian non-commissioned officers for the Eastern Roumelian militia as contrary to the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin; and I have to inform your Excellency that, under the circumstances explained in your above-mentioned telegram, Her Majesty's Government concur in your having suspended action in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 137.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 503.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 5*, 1880.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me on the 2nd instant, and told me that his Government were desirous of leaving to England the initiative in proposing the measures to be taken in case the further communication we were now expecting from the Porte should prove unsatisfactory.

His Excellency added, but as an expression of personal opinion from himself, that whatever Her Majesty's Government proposed he felt sure his Government would be ready to accept and support.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 138.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 504.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 5*, 1880.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 401 of the 15th ultimo, recording a conversation which you have had with Baron Jomini respecting the question of empowering the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople to settle with the Porte the terms of the agreement respecting the Montenegrin frontier, and to sign a Protocol confirming it.

In reply, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language you held to M. de Jomini on this occasion, as well as the terms of the note and memorandum which, in compliance with the instructions contained in my telegrams No. 640 of the 11th ultimo and No. 648 of the 14th ultimo, you addressed to his Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 139.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 515.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 5*, 1880.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon. His Excellency spoke to me about the memorandum which I had given to him confidentially as to the movement of arms and ammunition, of officers and non-commissioned officers, from Russia into Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. He read to me confidentially two Consular Reports, one from Philippopoli, the other from Sophia, each complaining of the credulity of the Consular officers of other Powers, who believed the reports published in the Greek local papers in a spirit of hostility to the Bulgarians. The despatches Prince Lobanow read to me entirely denied the accuracy of these reports.

That from Sophia gave an official list issued by the Minister of War of the superior officers, captains, and subalterns in the Bulgarian army, from which it appeared that the numbers of those of Russian nationality were: senior officers 31, captains 125, subalterns 22, non-commissioned officers 337.

I observed that I thought he had told me on a former occasion that there were no Russian superior officers, but only non-commissioned officers, in the Bulgarian army.

Prince Lobanow answered, "No; what I told you was that whereas we had taken away our non-commissioned officers when the Russian army retired, at the particular instance of the Prince, it had been found necessary to replace some of them. But that no fresh superior officers had been added to the army."

Prince Lobanow had no information as to the supply of arms and ammunition. He urged me to instruct our Consuls to ask for official reports from the Government of the Principality and the province as to the amounts imported.

His Excellency added that there was no doubt as to the influence which Russia possessed in these countries. Past history sufficiently explained the reason of that influence. But his Excellency declared in the most formal manner that all that influence was now exerted to calm and not to excite the populations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 140.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 540. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 5*, 1880.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, and I informed him of the proposal which Her Majesty's Government had made in consequence of the unsatisfactory character of the Porte's last communication, that the allied fleet should move to Smyrna, and hold it as a material guarantee.

General Menabrea said that he could not, without instructions, state what answer his Government would give to this proposal. They had not been prepared for so positive a refusal of the Porte to comply with the demands of the Powers. The note just received appeared to him to be almost a defiance. Personally, and without in any way committing his Government, he thought the measure proposed by us was a good one, but in his opinion it was desirable to watch carefully that the Turkish Government did not take further steps for the defence of the Dardanelles.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 141.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 435. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, September 23, 1880.*

I WAS requested by Count Maffei to call on him yesterday afternoon. He said he had no recent news from Dulcigno, and I thought I might venture to give him a verbal résumé of the news I had received through your Lordship of what had taken place there, as also of the telegram from Admiral Seymour.

I took that opportunity to tell him that I should feel deeply grateful if he would remove all doubt from my mind as to the attitude of the Italian Government in the event of the Turks persisting to resist the demands of the Powers.

I said that the moment had now come when the fleet might, at any moment, be called upon to use coercive measures, and that, in presence of the tone of the press—the doubts which I heard expressed around me, not only by my colleagues, but by persons connected with the Chambers—and, indeed, for the many reasons which I had on various occasions enumerated when discussing this question with him, I naturally now felt anxious to know if Her Majesty's Government could implicitly rely on the loyal co-operation of Italy in taking the necessary steps to obtain from Turkey the required settlement of this question.

From his reply I perceived that he had anticipated my question, and that the object with which he had sought my visit was to speak to me on this subject. After reiterating what he had said on former occasions, he assured me that Her Majesty's Government might rely on the joint action of Italy; indeed, that at the last Council it had been determined to observe strictly the accord entered into with Her Majesty's Government, and that I might safely tell your Lordship that for every gun fired by the English Admiral he would, if necessary, be seconded by the guns of the Italian iron-clads.

I thanked Count Maffei for this further assurance, as, however difficult the situation might become, yet it was only by the maintenance of the general concert that the crisis could be avoided.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 142.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 446.)
My Lord, *Rome, October 1, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Count Maffei read to me to-day a telegram he had received from the Italian Representative at Athens, in which the latter said that he had heard from the Minister for Foreign Affairs that it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to cede Cyprus to Greece in compensation for certain modifications to be made in the line of frontier decided at Berlin.

Count Maffei attached no credit or importance to this communication, and only mentioned it to me as one of the many idle reports put in circulation at this moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 143.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 449.)
My Lord, *Rome, October 2, 1880.*

MOST of the Italian newspapers issued yesterday and to-day contain articles or paragraphs on the subject of the closer alliance between Italy and England.

The "Italie" gives an account of the reception lately accorded to General Menabrea at Chatham.

The "Nazione" announces that the "active and intelligent efforts of the Italian Ambassador in London have resulted in securing the sincere alliance of England. The conditions of this alliance are most favourable, particularly, as it is said, with respect to Egypt." The paragraph ends by commenting upon the great importance of this "political fact."

The "Liberta" reproduces the above notice from the "Nazione," and says that though the certainty of its accuracy does not appear, yet the news may not be without some foundation. The "Liberta"—the "people's newspaper"—does not testify very great ardour in desiring the confirmation of the report, but admits that it would be advantageous and honourable for Italy to be in accord with England, in view of the existing crisis, since the two nations are those which are best able to prevent an European conflagration.

The "Conservatore" cites a Stefani telegram, to the effect that the English and Italian ships form the first line of the naval demonstration.

It also mentions General Menabrea's reception at Chatham as a significant incident, and says that the friends of peace will see with satisfaction the co-operation of the two eminently pacific nations in preserving Europe from a disastrous conflict.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 144.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 947. Extender.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 5, 1880.*

I HAD this morning the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, stating the views of Her Majesty's Government respecting the recent communication from the Porte to the Representatives of the Six Powers at Constantinople.

I lost no time in communicating those views to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, and at his request I left with him a memorandum containing the substance of your Lordship's telegram.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said that he could not give any answer to the proposals of Her Majesty's Government until he had consulted his colleagues, but that he would confer with them on the subject without delay. In the meantime, he would repeat to me the assurance that the French Government were extremely anxious that the questions with Turkey should be promptly settled, extremely desirous of adhering to the concert of the Powers, and prepared to go as far in doing so as the French Constitution allowed them.

We had afterwards some informal conversation, from which I gathered that personally M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire considered the Turkish communication entirely unsatisfactory, and that indeed he was not averse to the proposal to transfer the fleets to Smyrna, and hold that port as a guarantee.

He was, however, careful to guard against committing himself to any definite opinion before he had communicated with his colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 145.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 948.)
Paris, October 5, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 1298 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to report that this morning I placed in M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire's hand a memorandum of the substance of the information given by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson with regard to the treatment and condition of the minor populations in the department of Bourgas. At the same time, I asked his Excellency whether the French Government would be willing to remonstrate jointly or singly against the abuses described.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said that he earnestly desired to take any steps which would be likely to improve the condition of the populations in question, and that he would examine the matter, and give me an answer without delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 146.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 6.)

(No. 168.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 6, 1880.*

AM I at liberty to mention to Baron Haymerle the information contained in Stephen's telegram No. 90, without saying from whence it comes?

No. 147.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 6, 6·28 P.M.)

(No. 169.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 6, 1880, 6·22 P.M.*

I HAVE failed in seeing Baron Haymerle since making known to him your Lordship's proposal of sending fleets to Smyrna, but he would have told me nothing before communicating with the Emperor.

He does not appear in favour of treating the Montenegrin, Greek, and Armenian questions as one.

I have been asked whether, in speaking of holding port of Smyrna as a material guarantee, the seaport alone is meant, or the town also. I said that I presumed it meant the place itself, with the control of the custom-house, but I should be glad to know if I am right.

The Italian Ambassador has communicated the acceptance of his Government.

No. 148.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 24. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 6, 1880.*

THE following is for the information of the Admiral:—

The following telegram was sent to the Embassies on the 4th instant, but no action can be taken till their replies are received:—

[See No. 99.]

No. 149.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 778.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 6, 1880, 5·20 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador has communicated to me following telegram from Livadia:—

"The Emperor considers that, after defiance of Europe in the Sultan's answer, any

further negotiations become impossible. His Majesty, therefore, does not hesitate to accept the proposal of Her Majesty's Government to take possession of Smyrna until the pending question is settled."

No. 150.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 6, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 112.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October 6, 1880, 3·55 P.M.*

I HAVE informed French Minister for Foreign Affairs that the Italian Government have fully accepted the proposal of Her Majesty's Government concerning Smyrna. He cannot give the French answer until he hears from M. Grévy, who is at a distance from Paris.

No. 151.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 6, 6 P.M.)

(No. 113.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October 6, 1880, 4 P.M.*

MR. CORBETT'S telegram No. 40.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs begs me to inform your Lordship that the recall of the present French Minister at Athens does not indicate any change whatever in the policy of the French Government.

No. 152.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 6, 1880, 6·5 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Ambassador at Constantinople is authorized to concert with his colleagues respecting application of Statute elaborated by Eastern Roumelian Commission.

No. 153.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 646.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 6, 1880.*

SUPPOSING that possession was taken of the port of Smyrna, what would be the best means of administering the customs?

No. 154.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 647.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 6, 1880, 6 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 287 of yesterday.

Her Majesty's Government concur that it is not expedient to interfere at present about increase of Eastern Roumelian militia.

No. 155.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 652. Extender.)
Foreign Office, October 6, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 287 of the 5th instant informing me that Mr. Stephen has suggested that a remonstrance should be made against the sudden large increase in the force of Eastern Roumelian militia, which, in his opinion,

serves as an excuse for the acceptance of a further supply of Russian officers and non-commissioned officers for the above-mentioned force, and Her Majesty's Government concur in your Excellency's opinion that it is not expedient at present to interfere in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 156.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 553. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 6, 1880.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that I have been informed by Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh that the Russian Government have authorized their Ambassador at Constantinople to concert with his colleagues as to what steps should be taken to induce the Porte to put in force the Statute elaborated by the Eastern Roumelian Commission under the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 157.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 507. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 6, 1880.

THE Russian Ambassador communicated to me to-day a telegram from Livadia, which ran as follows:—

"The Emperor considers that after the defiance of Europe in the Sultan's answer any further negotiations become impossible, and His Majesty therefore does not hesitate to accept the proposal of Her Majesty's Government to take possession of Smyrna until the pending question is settled."

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 158.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 298.)
My Lord, *Athens, September* 30, 1880.

NUMEROUS Turkish officers and soldiers in a very destitute condition have come into Greece lately from Asia Minor and from Epirus and Thessaly, and asked to be enrolled in the Greek army. The Government have, however, refused to accept their services, except in the case of natives of Epirus and Thessaly, who are considered already to owe allegiance to the Greek Crown.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 159.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, October 7.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 4 Octobre,* 1880.

LA Sublime Porte, désireuse d'en finir une fois pour toutes avec les difficultés contre lesquelles elle a à lutter, a envoyé à la date du 3 courant aux Représentants des Six Puissances une note réglant toutes les questions pendantes qui se rattachent au Traité de Berlin.

Voici le texte de cette note:—

[For text of note, see Inclosure in No. 224.]

La communication qui précède indique, vous le verrez, les limites des concessions qu'il nous est possible de faire sur les questions dont il s'agit sans compromettre gravement les droits et les intérêts de l'Empire, et sous la réserve bien entendue des assurances que nous demandons par cette même communication.

Je vous prie de faire valoir auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères les arguments et les considérations y énoncés, de façon à écarter toute équivoque sur le caractère de ces concessions.

No. 160.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Prince Lobanow, October 7.)

(Télégraphique.) *Livadia, le* 24 Septembre / 6 Octobre, 1880.

EN vue du prochain départ des escadres réunies pour Smyrne, l'augmentation considérable des forces Turques et Albanaises sur la frontière Monténégrine rend fort critique la situation du Prince Nicholas. Nous sommes informés par télégraphe qu'il va réclamer l'assistance de l'Europe, et nous trouvons qu'il y incontestablement droit.

Selon nous, le moyen le plus efficace de venir en aide au Monténégro serait de lui fournir les armes et les ressources pécuniaires qui lui manquent et qui lui sont plus indispensables que jamais.

L'Empereur veut que vous vous assuriez confidentiellement auprès de Lord Granville si le Gouvernement Britannique serait, comme nous, disposé à accorder au Monténégro l'appui auquel il s'attend.

No. 161.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 7, 2 A.M.)

(No. 290.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 6, 1880, 10·40 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador proposed to-day to carry out instructions received prior to delivery of last Turkish note, and to ask for explanations as to instructions to Riza Pasha.

French, Italian, and Russian Ambassadors, as well as myself, were strongly of opinion that, in view of the change in the situation produced by the last note, no communication should be made by us to the Porte without fresh instructions from our Governments. Any small step such as that proposed seemed to be ignoring the note. This view accordingly prevailed.

I infer from phrase in your Lordship's telegram No. 625 about notes and despatches that your Lordship would not wish any approach made to the Porte till some course is decided on.

No. 162.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 7, 8·16 P.M.)

(No. 291.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October* 7, 1880, 3 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 649.

Before Captain Tryon's visit I should have answered that the Turkish fleet were not in a condition to put to sea. His opinion, however, was that the ships were in rather better order than was believed, and that the Turks might get together a respectable force for a rush down the Dardanelles, as a formidable auxiliary to their forts. An expedition to Smyrna, however, is a different affair, for which they might require more preparation; and they could not bring together a force adequate to contend with our Mediterranean fleet, especially supported, as it would be, by some other ships. Of course, the Turkish men-of-war might be stopped at the mouth of the Dardanelles.

If Captain Tryon could be communicated with, he would give a valuable opinion.

No. 163.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 105.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 7, 1880.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs, to whom I communicated the Italian and Russian adherence, tells me that the decision of the German Government must depend on that of Austria, which has not been yet taken.

Austrian and French Chargés d'Affaires have no news whatever from their Governments.

No. 164.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received October 7.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cattaro, October 7, 1880.*

RUSSIAN Admiral has orders to co-operate with the British Admiral in occupation of Smyrna.

No. 165.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 714.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 7, 1880, 2 A.M.*

THE step we propose is with a view to place ourselves at once in a right position as regards Turkey. How to deal with the different questions may be a matter for further consideration.

We desire only to take possession of so much of Smyrna as will secure to the Powers the full control of the Customs, consistently with order, and the continued transaction of commercial business; the important buildings for this purpose would be under the fire of the ships.

No. 166.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 7, 12·35 P.M.)

(No. 141.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October 7, 1880, 11 A.M.*

I DOUBT Italian Government being disposed to treat Montenegrin and Greek and Armenian questions as one. I consider them to have adhered to Smyrna proposal with a view to Montenegrin settlement alone.

No. 167.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 715.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 7, 1880, 3·45 P.M.*

YOURS No. 168.

You may communicate Mr. Stephen's No. 90 confidentially to Baron Haymerle.

No. 168.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 550.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 7, 1880, 8 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 290 of yesterday.

Her Majesty's Government entirely agree with you that, till some course is decided on, no fresh approach should be made to the Porte.

No. 169.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 554. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 7, 1880, 6 P.M.*

TELL Colonel Wilson privately that, in case the fleets go to Smyrna, he will be asked to place his services at the disposal of Admiral Seymour.

No. 170.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 556.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 379, Confidential, of the 21st ultimo, forwarding Colonel Wilson's Report on a petition, which is also annexed, addressed to you by the inhabitants of various villages in the District of Kitchevo, complaining of the state of affairs in those localities, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the course which your Excellency proposes to pursue with regard to this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 171.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 557.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 363 of the 16th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a communication which has been addressed to you by the Armenian Patriarch on the subject of the complaints made by the leading Armenians of certain villages near Diarbekir of their ill-treatment at the hands of the Kurdish Beys.

In reply I have to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve of the answer you returned to his Beatitude on this subject, and they also concur in the course you propose to pursue in future in dealing with cases of a similar nature, as explained in your Excellency's despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 172.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 558.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 374 of the 20th ultimo, forwarding various documents concerning the administration of the Island of Samos.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that the information contained in these papers is of so conflicting a character that, before making any direct representation to the Porte on the subject, it would be desirable that your Excellency should take steps for obtaining fuller information from Mr. Vice-Consul Mare as to the character of the Government of the island, and in the meanwhile you might speak in general terms to the Porte of the interest Her Majesty's Government takes in Samos and in the maintenance of its constitution.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 173.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 561.)

Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received Mr. Stephen's despatch No. 336 of the 16th ultimo, recording conversations he has held with the Bulgarian Metropolitan, and with M. Kersiakoff and Dr. Strauski, the Directors of Justice and Finance, relative to the Unionist movement in Eastern Roumelia and other matters; and I have to request your Excellency to be so good as to convey to Mr. Stephen my entire approval of his language on those occasions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 174.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 563.)

Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 361 of the 17th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a note from the Porte in reply to your letter of the 28th July last asking for certain particulars connected with the Aïdos outrages, and making some suggestions as to the answer which should be returned to the Porte if it were considered advisable to make any reply.

Having regard, however, to all the circumstances of the case, and the long delay which has occurred on the part of the Porte in replying to your inquiries, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that unless your colleagues agree to take the matter up, it will not be necessary to prolong the correspondence on this subject any further.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 175.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 564. Extender.)

Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 290 of the 6th instant, informing me that the majority of your colleagues were strongly of opinion that, in view of the change in the situation produced by the last note from the Porte, no communication should be made to the Turkish Government without direct instructions to do so; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government entirely agree with you that, until some course is decided on by the Powers, no fresh approach should be made to the Porte.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 176.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 658. Extender.)

Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.

Sir,

IN reply to your telegram No. 169 of yesterday, I have to state to your Excellency that the step Her Majesty's Government propose to take is with a view to placing the Powers at once in a right position towards Turkey. They are of opinion that the mode of dealing with the different questions now in discussion with the Porte may be a matter for further consideration.

Her Majesty's Government desire only to take possession of so much of Smyrna as will secure to the Powers the full control of the Customs, consistently with order and the uninterrupted transaction of commercial business.

The ships would be able to command all the important buildings for this purpose, as they are situated near the harbour.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 177.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 662. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.

Sir,

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon, and, with reference to a question which I had asked him, stated that Baron Haymerle informed him that he had never said anything amounting to an opinion that the Turkish proposals had better be accepted, whatever they might be. He had never gone further than to express a hope that they might be such as might, with indulgence, be considered to afford a basis for negotiation. That hope, M. Heugelmüller added, had now entirely fallen to the ground.

I reminded him that, speaking to me some time ago, he had talked of the necessity of avoiding delay in dealing with the proposals as soon as they came, and had remarked that possibly that which had occurred at one period of the negotiations from the necessity of consultation among the Powers had had an injurious effect in encouraging the Porte to resistance. I said that on the present occasion I had given him beforehand an intimation of what our proposals were likely to be, and that the proposal itself was dispatched by telegraph to the several Governments within an hour of our receiving the substance of the Turkish note. If, therefore, there was delay on the present occasion, it would not be with Her Majesty's Government that the blame would rest.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 178.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1332.)

Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.

My Lord,

IN your Excellency's despatch No. 940 of the 3rd instant, you report that M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire had said to your Excellency that France must abstain altogether from taking the initiative with regard to the Greek question, and that he could not consent to discuss it with any one Power separately.

Her Majesty's Government wish your Excellency to take an early opportunity of explaining to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire that in the communication which you had been instructed to make to his Excellency Her Majesty's Government had not the slightest intention of acting separately from the other Powers, but that they thought it respectful to consult France in the same way as they had previously done when the line of frontier to be proposed at the Berlin Conference was discussed between M. de Freycinet and Major-General Sir Lintorn Simmons in June last, and when the French Government took the initiative in supporting and maintaining the claims of Greece.

Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe that their having thus consulted the French Government was perfectly satisfactory to the other Powers, who acknowledged the lead which M. Waddington had taken at Berlin in 1878.

Your Excellency might also remind M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire that on the occasion of the presentation of the collective note respecting Montenegro, Her Majesty's Government became the intermediary between the French Government and the other Powers in order to obtain the assent of the Powers to the condition of M. de Freycinet that they would join in a similar naval demonstration with reference to the Greek frontier.

Her Majesty's Government have no doubt that frank and unreserved communication on the questions pending with Turkey, and especially that which concerns the Greek frontier, will be of great use in attaining the end which both countries, in common with other Powers, have in view. Her Majesty's Government have received with sincere pleasure the assurance of M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire of his desire to maintain this concert.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 179.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1334.)
Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Adams' despatch No. 915 of the 28th ultimo, respecting the desire expressed by the Prince of Montenegro to be informed whether he could count on the political and military assistance of the Powers in the event of his being brought into a real conflict with the Turkish troops, it is hardly necessary that I should point out that the paragraph towards the end of the modified Instructions to the Admirals, to which M. de Courcel called Mr. Adams' attention, does not apply to the present state of the case.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 180.

*Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 1335.)
Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a draft of instructions for the guidance of the Commander of the allied fleet, which Her Majesty's Government have prepared in order that, if the Powers concur in the proposal which Her Majesty's Government have submitted to them for the transfer of the fleet from the Adriatic to Smyrna, no time may be lost in carrying out their determination.

I have to request that you will communicate a copy of this draft, in strict confidence, to the French Government, and inquire whether, should they accept the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, they are ready to adopt it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 181.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 509.)
Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 413 of the 22nd ultimo, forwarding a copy of a note which, in compliance with the instructions contained in my despatch No. 460 of the 17th ultimo, you had addressed to the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, calling the attention of the Russian Government to the part which the Russian Military Attaché at Philippopoli appears to have taken in promoting the engagement of Russian non-commissioned officers to serve in the Eastern Roumelian militia; and, in reply, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the terms of the note which you have addressed to Baron Jomini on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Mr. Macdonell (No. 542), Lord Odo Russell (No. 648), Mr. Plunkett (No. 511), and Sir H. Elliot (No. 681).

No. 182.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 510.)
Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 411 of the 22nd ultimo, forwarding a copy of a note which, in compliance with the instructions contained in my despatch No. 456 of the 13th ultimo, you had addressed to Baron Jomini, calling his Excellency's attention to the action of M. Novikow in preventing the Russian Commissioner on the Eastern Roumelian Commission from signing the Declaration with regard to Albania proposed by the Austrian and French Commissioners; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the note which you have addressed to M. de Jomini on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE

No. 183.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 511.)
Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch 412 of the 22nd ultimo, forwarding copy of a note which, in compliance with the instructions contained in my despatch No. 459 of the 15th ultimo, you have addressed to the Russian Minister for Foreign Affairs, requesting that the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople should be authorized to discuss with his colleagues the course that should be pursued in order to induce the Porte to put in force the Project of Law elaborated by the Eastern Roumelian Commission; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the terms of the note you addressed to M. de Jomini on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 184.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 516. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.

Sir,

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon in order to obtain an answer to the question which is asked in the inclosed telegram from Livadia as to the assistance to be afforded to the Prince of Montenegro against a possible attack from the Turkish and Albanian forces in view of the proposed departure of the allied fleet for Smyrna.

I told Prince Lobanow that I could not myself think that there was any great danger of either the Turkish troops or the Albanian irregulars taking the offensive against the Prince. That had not been in any way the attitude of Riza Pasha hitherto, and I doubted the Albanians moving of their own accord as aggressors. I reminded his Excellency that when Admiral Seymour had explained to the Prince the risk he would run, in case he advanced, of having to cope with the Turkish forces as well as the Albanians, His Highness had expressed himself as confident of being able to deal with both with such limited assistance as the fleet could render him. It would be strange if, under those circumstances, he were now to be unable even to hold his own against an attack.

I explained that with our system of Government there would be considerable difficulty in our supplying the Prince with money or arms, and I added that, as regards

* Also to Mr. Macdonell, Lord Odo Russell, Lord Lyons, and Sir H. Elliot.

the Montenegrin question, Her Majesty's Government had strong objections to taking any step which did not partake of the nature of general action by the Powers. But I said that if Austria did not object to money or arms being supplied, and if the Russian Government were ready to undertake to furnish them, as from old associations of friendship they very possibly might be, we should offer no objections.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 185.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 125.)
Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 314, Political, of the 16th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a note addressed to you by the Mahommedan and Roman Catholic Notables of Dulcigno, protesting against the cession of Dulcigno to Montenegro; and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language you held to the bearer of that document.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 186.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 126.)
Foreign Office, October 7, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 312 of the 16th ultimo, reporting an interview you had had with Riza Pasha; and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language you held to that officer with regard to the surrender of Dulcigno, as recorded in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 187.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 411.)
Therapia, September 30, 1880.

My Lord,

IN accordance with the authority conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 434 of the 6th instant, I have communicated to the Sublime Porte a copy of Colonel Wilson's Report on Eastern Roumelia.

I have also furnished Mr. Stephen with copies of this document, and instructed him to give one to the Governor-General of the province, a course which will, I trust, meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 188.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 412.)
Therapia, October 1, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 264, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a memorandum drawn up by the German Ambassador embodying the verbal declaration made to him by Artin Effendi, the Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in the name of the Sultan, with regard to the execution of the engagements devolving on the Porte from the Treaty of Berlin.

Count Hatzfeldt read this memorandum to Artin Effendi, who stated that it correctly represented what he had said. Artin Effendi was not authorized to give any written document himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 188.

Verbal Declaration of Sultan communicated to Count Hatzfeldt respecting Montenegrin Question, &c.

Bujukdéré, le 28 Septembre, 1880.

LE Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères est venu chez moi aujourd'hui pour me faire officiellement, en ma qualité de Doyen, la déclaration verbale suivante au nom de Sa Majesté le Sultan:—

"Le Sultan voulant donner une preuve éclatante de sa résolution d'exécuter dans le plus bref délai les engagements qui découlent pour la Sublime Porte du Traité de Berlin, a décidé de régler définitivement les questions qui s'y rattachent jusqu'au plus tard Dimanche, 3 Octobre.

"Sa Majesté a l'espoir que le réglement relatif à ces questions, réglement qu'elle se hâtera de faire communiquer aux Puissances dans le délai indiqué, sera de nature à les satisfaire. En présence de cette résolution catégorique, Sa Majesté espère que les Puissances ne feront pas la démonstration navale projetée, et elle croit en même temps que la protestation faite en dernier lieu par MM. les Représentants au nom de leurs Gouvernements ne saurait plus avoir d'objet.

"Le Conseil des Ministres se réunit dès aujourd'hui au Palais pour les occuper de ce réglement."

Le Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat était également chargé par Sa Majesté de me prier de vouloir bien reprendre la note collective du 26 Septembre formulant la protestation dont il s'agit, et j'ai répondu qu'il m'était impossible d'accéder à ce désir.

No. 189.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8, 3·26 A.M.)

(No. 292. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 7, 1880, 10·30 P.M.*

THE secret as to Smyrna has not leaked out yet at Constantinople, but it is sure to be known very soon. It is very probable that the Christians at Smyrna may be in much alarm, and it will be expedient for men-of-war to be near at hand at the earliest possible moment after the project becomes known.

The interval between the first knowledge by the Porte of the idea being entertained and its acceptance or rejection by the Powers will of course be full of difficulties.

No. 190.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8, 9·55 A.M.)

(No. 293.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, October 8, 1880, 11·10 A.M.*

HAVAS Agency have had a cyphered telegram from Paris, stating that England proposes a great naval demonstration elsewhere, and that it is believed to be at Smyrna. The secret will therefore be public property very soon. I shall inform your Lordship at once when I hear that the Porte or the public know of it.

No. 191.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8, 11 A.M.)

(No. 294.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 8, 1880, 8 A.M.*

SMYRNA Customs. The best man to consult will ultimately be Mr. Lang, the very able Administrator here of the six Indirect Contributions.

I find the greatest difficulty in recommending a satisfactory plan to your Lordship. I presume officials will be wanted who speak Turkish, and have some experience with Custom-house matters; while it is doubtful whether Turkish officials would act, even if it were desirable.

Could Cyprus help you? or English or French officials who have served in Egypt? Sir R. Wilson might possibly know where they are to be found.

I do not quite know whether it is on this branch of the question, or on other points, that you invite my opinion in telegram No. 646.

No. 192.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8, 2·20 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Smyrna, October 7, 1880, 5·40 P.M.*

FIVE hundred infantry in barracks at Smyrna; 10,000 men, fully equipped, can be mustered at a moment's notice in this district. Cavalry in this district about 100. No preparations for defence; port not crowded; abundant room.

No. 193.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8, 2·50 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Smyrna, October 8, 1880, 1·20 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, there are also about 300 infantry elsewhere in the province.

10,000 men mentioned are disbanded troops, who can be quickly recalled to standard.

No. 194.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tunis, October 8, 1880.*

IN discussing terms of concession of projected new port at Tunis, further difficulties have arisen. French demand reversion of the property to them after fifty years' administration, if not in the meantime repaid by Tunis Government.

Bey unable to accede to this demand, but willing to allow French to continue in possession for ninety years.

The ships of war mentioned in my despatch No. 23 of the 24th August still here.

No. 195.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 667.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 8, 1880.*

IF you receive an assent to our proposal about Smyrna, urge that the departure of the fleet should not be delayed during discussion of instructions. These could be sent after it.

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* Also to Lord Lyons (No. 547), and Sir H. Elliot (No. 720).

No. 196.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) *Gravosa, October 8, 1880, 1·30 P.M.*

IN the event of definite orders being received for the Smyrna occupation, the Admiral has made the following arrangement:—

The fleet to make for port of Scio, Isle of Khios, as a rendezvous, Russian ships touching at Pirœus for coal on the way. From Scio the Admiral would make a preliminary reconnaissance of the position. The probable time from date of receipt of orders to the reunion of the fleet at the rendezvous would be five days, allowing for contingencies.

Russian Legation at Montenegro has made public the proposed departure of the fleet for Smyrna; [? but] as yet only the Russian appear to have orders to co-operate.

No. 197

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 545.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 8, 1880, 2·30 P.M.*

WHAT is the result of the communication with the President, which you announced?

Owing to the delay the secret is oozing out; serious complications may arise. Do what you think most judicious to receive an early and favourable answer.

(Secret.)
The French Rothschilds say there is to be a Cabinet to-morrow, at which the decision will be adverse.

No. 198.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8, 6·35 P.M.)

(No. 170.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 8, 1880, 5 P.M.*

I WAS unwell yesterday, and unable to go to Baron Haymerle to learn the decision of the Austrian Government about the fleet going to Smyrna.

He has just been to see me, and said that though the Imperial Government cannot send their own ships, he agreed with your Lordship that the Turkish note offers no basis of arrangement or negotiation, and he admits the proposed demonstration, under the conditions of the self-denying Protocol, and guarding the maritime and commercial interests of Austria, and he proposes that a portion of the revenue of the custom-houses of Smyrna should be paid to the Prince of Montenegro till Dulcigno is given up, to compensate him for the cost of keeping up his army.

The Imperial Government feel, he said, obliged to weigh all the eventualities of measures that, even if conducted with every moderation, may ultimately constitute an act of war, which, as they have always declared, they must avoid.

In abstaining from sending the ships, Baron Haymerle believes that he remains within the compass of your Lordship's meaning in proposing the demonstration before Dulcigno, when it was suggested that every Government should be left the faculty of sending their ships or not.

He is most anxious that it should not be supposed that in declining to take an active part in a step that might possibly lead him further than he meant to go he is separating himself from Her Majesty's Government.

I said that this abstention would have some appearance of it, and would probably be represented as the beginning of a disagreement among the Powers, and would diminish the chance that the presence of the fleets at Smyrna would produce on the Sultan the effect that was hoped from it.

I asked whether at least the Austrian flag could not be shown by some small vessel accompanying the others, but he did not entertain the suggestion.

No. 199.

*Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 548.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1880, 7 P.M.

ADMIRAL SEYMOUR reports that Russian Admiral has orders to proceed to Smyrna with allied squadron.

Admiral Seymour has informed the other Commanders, who have promised secrecy.

No. 200.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8, 7·15 P.M.)

(No. 193. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 8, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

I LEARN from M. Jomini that Russia has advanced 1,000,000 roubles to Montenegro for the purchase of arms.

Austria has been informed, and has no objection.

No. 201.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8, 7 P.M.)

(No. 194.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 8, 1880, 4·40 P.M.

M. JOMINI again assured me to-day that Russia will follow England everywhere.

The only point on which it was possible there might be a difference of opinion between us might be if the Sultan were to insist on his Treaty right to occupy the Balkans.

No. 202.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8, 8·8 P.M.)

(No. 143.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October* 8, 1880, 6·20 P.M.

FRENCH Chargé d'Affaires has informed Italian Government that his Government has decided to withdraw its iron-clads from Tunis, and that it has urged editors of leading French newspapers to cease their hostile tone towards Italy.

No. 203.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 8, 9 P.M.)

(No. 117.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinje, October* 8, 1880, 4 P.M.

PRINCE NICHOLAS asked me this morning whether I could support advice given by my Russian and Austrian colleagues to reduce his troops on the Albanian frontier, as the finances of the Principality cannot bear much longer the strain of keeping up so large a force, and in view of the report which has got about that the action of the Powers on the Porte is to be removed elsewhere.

I advised His Highness not to act precipitately, and to await for a few days longer decision of the Powers; but, at his request, I communicate to your Lordship his anxiety to avoid all unnecessary outlay.

(Sent to Admiral and Therapia.)

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* Also to Mr. Macdonell (No. 710), Sir H. Elliot (No. 721), Lord Odo Russell (No. 668), Mr. Plunkett (No. 784), and Mr. Goschen (No. 657).

No. 204.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 556. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1880.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and discussed with me some of the reports that were current as to the intentions and objects of the several Powers with regard to Turkish affairs.

General Menabrea observed that the Italian Government had full confidence in the disinterestedness of England, but that they felt that other Powers—his Excellency mentioned France, Austria, and Germany—were looking to the possible disruption of the Turkish Empire with certain aims. He said that Italy had willingly joined in the concerted action proposed by Her Majesty's Government, believing it to be the best method for preserving peace and preventing a selfish and isolated policy on the part of any one country. He added that the Italian Government would not be willing to sit quietly by while other countries laid hands on whatever seemed desirable to them—while Italian interests were entirely neglected.

We went on to speak of the possible tenour of the answers which we were still awaiting from the French, Austrian, and German Governments as to the proposal to send the allied fleet to Smyrna, and the course which it might be advisable to adopt, according to what the tenour of the answers might be.

General Menabrea repeated the conviction he had before expressed that his Government would desire in any case to follow the lead of England ("à la remorque de l'Angleterre"), provided always that the material interests of Italy did not suffer.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 205.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1340.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government are desirous of learning as soon as possible the reply of the French Government to the communication which your Excellency was instructed to make to them on the 4th instant, relative to the proposed occupation of the Port of Smyrna as a material guarantee.

Your Excellency informed me by telegraph, on the 6th instant, that M. Barthélemy de St. Hilaire was unable to convey to you the reply of the French Government to that communication until hearing from the President, who was stated to be absent from Paris.

Any further delay in arriving at a general understanding on this subject may be productive of serious complications, and I have therefore to request that your Excellency will take such steps as in your opinion may be most judicious in order to secure, with as little delay as possible, a favourable reply from the French Government to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 206.

*Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 1342.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1880.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of the Porte's reply, dated the 4th instant, to the demands made by the Powers for the fulfilment of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.†

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Lord Odo Russell (No. 650), Sir H. Elliot (No. 669), Mr. Goschen (No. 580), Mr. Plunkett (No. 517), and Mr. Macdonell (No. 548).

† No. 159.

No. 207.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 649. Extender.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 8, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 640 of the 4th instant, I have to request that, should you receive an assent to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that the allied squadrons should be transferred from the Adriatic to Smyrna, your Excellency will urge that the departure of the fleet should not be delayed pending the discussion of the instructions to the Naval Commanders. These latter could be settled and sent subsequently.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 208.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 318. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, September* 21, 1880.

I WILL not trouble your Lordship with a detailed account of the manner in which Captain Lord Walter Kerr and Mr. Caillard have been enabled, through me, to deliver to the Turkish authorities of this vilayet Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour's summonses to them to surrender the town and district of Dulcigno to Montenegro, as those gentlemen will doubtless draw up very full reports of their proceedings; and as, through the very peremptory nature of the Admiral's instructions, my action was limited to bringing Lord Walter Kerr and Mr. Caillard into communication with the competent military and civil authorities.

I, however, took steps to communicate to my colleagues, through M. Lippich, the Doyen of the Consular Corps, the injunction which Sir Beauchamp Seymour had sent, as Commander-in-chief of the combined fleet, for them to place their families—and themselves if necessary—out of the danger which might arise through the possible active operations of the naval force. My colleagues, being without instructions, expressed themselves unable to leave Scutari, especially as they were not of an unanimous opinion that danger would ensue through the enforcement of the surrender of Dulcigno.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 209.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 321. Political.)

My Lord, *Cettinjé, October* 3, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transact herewith the copy of a *note verbale* received by me this morning from Voïvoda Radonich on the subject of the continued strengthening of the Turkish regular force in the Vilayet of Scutari, and the misgivings which it causes to the Montenegrin Government.

This *note verbale* has also been addressed to the other foreign Representatives here.

In the face of the persistent declarations of Riza Pasha that he is quite in a position to enforce the surrender of Dulcigno the moment the Porte orders him to carry it out, it cannot be denied that the Montenegrin Government is justified in viewing with distrust the reported military augmentations of the Turks in Albania.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

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* Also to Lord Lyons (No. 1341), and Sir H. Elliot (No. 668).

Inclosure in No. 209.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

LE Gouvernement Princier vient d'apprendre que le Gouvernement Ottoman continue toujours à augmenter le corps de troupes régulières qui a été réuni en dernier lieu dans le Sandjak de Scutari, sous prétexte qu'il devait contribuer à la solution pacifique des difficultés pendantes. En même temps, les armes et les munitions sont envoyées en grande quantité en Albanie.

Encore ces jours derniers, le $\frac{14}{26}$ de ce mois, le bateau à vapeur du Lloyd Autrichien a débarqué à St. Giovanni di Medua, en venant de Corfou, 200 hommes de Nizams, 100 caisses de fusils, et 500 caisses de biscuits.

Les Grandes Puissances sont aujourd'hui convaincues que l'armée régulière Turque, concentrée dans le Sandjak de Scutari, est loin de servir les buts pacifiques. Elle est non-seulement un encouragement et un appui direct à l'agitation des Musulmans de l'Albanie, mais elle est aussi la cause des atermoiements et des résistances que la Porte oppose aux demandes et aux sommations de l'Europe. Sous le voile des négociations, sous le prétexte de l'agitation nationale Albanaise débordant soi-disant l'action des autorités, les Turcs n'avaient jusqu'à présent qu'un seul objectif, c'est celui de fortifier leur position en Albanie, et de rendre ainsi plus que difficile une attaque éventuelle par nos troupes, alors que les négociations n'auraient abouti à aucun résultat.

En considérant ce qui précède, et vu surtout les derniers incidents survenus dans nos relations avec la Turquie, le Monténégro considère cette augmentation de troupes comme un véritable danger pour la Principauté, et espère que les Grandes Puissances conviendront aussi que cette augmentation des troupes du Gouvernement Ottoman, convaincues d'être de mauvaise foi, ne présage rien de rassurant pour l'avenir des questions pendantes.

Prévoyant les résultats du double jeu de la Porte, le Gouvernement Princier a déjà à plusieurs reprises signalé les dangers qui devaient résulter des envois antérieurs des troupes à Scutari.

Le Monténégro s'empresse encore une fois de protester contre la réunion sur nos frontières de l'armée Turque, inutile pour la paix, et dangereuse en cas d'un conflit, qui peut devenir inévitable. Il proteste d'autant plus que ce ne sont pas les bandes indigènes qui nous obligent d'avoir presque toute notre armée réunie sur la frontière, mais bien ces mêmes troupes régulières, dont le Chef vient de déclarer d'une manière si péremptoire qu'il ne peut pas séparer la cause du Gouvernement de celle des bandes réunies autour de Dulcigno.

C'est au moyen de ces mêmes troupes que la Porte cherche aussi à frustrer le Monténégro des territoires qui lui incombent de l'autre côté du lac, en vertu des derniers arrangements.

C'est en réunissant une force imposante en Albanie qu'elle croit pouvoir arracher de nouvelles concessions.

Le moyen est simple. Elle fera toujours miroiter la possibilité d'une solution pacifique en cas de la condescendance de l'Europe tout en lui faisant présenter la perspective des désastres sans nombre, en cas contraire. La Turquie a besoin de ces troupes pour rendre vraie et palpable la perspective de ces désastres, et elle espère que le sentiment d'humanité en Europe reculera devant l'imminence d'une grande effusion de sang, et lui laissera enfin le champ libre.

Aussi le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Prince de Monténégro prie instamment les Grandes Puissances qui ont si généreusement pris sa cause en main, et qui désirent une prompte solution des difficultés pendantes sur nos frontières, de vouer leur attention aux faits qu'il vient de signaler, de ne pas permettre à la Porte d'aggraver encore la situation actuelle par l'augmentation de ses troupes et le débarquement en Albanie d'armes, de munitions, et de vivres qui alimentent la résistance, et enfin de prendre des mesures qu'elles croiront nécessaires et possibles pour couper court à ces préparatifs de la part de la Porte, qui peuvent, le cas échéant, changer les difficultés actuelles en une véritable guerre.

Cettinjé, le $\frac{\text{20 Septembre}}{\text{2 Octobre}}$, 1880.

No. 210.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 322. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, October 5, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Hadji Osman Pasha, the Vali of Scutari, announced on the 23rd ultimo to the Consular Body that the state of siege had been proclaimed in the Vilayet of Scutari by Imperial Iradé, dated the 13th August (o.s.), and that the Local Police Administration and the Criminal Tribunals had been placed under the military authorities.

Notwithstanding these measures, the Scutari Committee of the Albanian League still continues to hold its daily meetings, and to forward volunteers, arms, and stores to Dulcigno.

Riza Pasha made a pretence of controlling the departure of volunteers, by placing guards at the bridges over the Rivers Boyana and Drin, and ordering that no one should be allowed to pass without a written permit. Half-a-dozen mountaineers, however, put the order to the test by threatening to fire upon the guards, when they were immediately allowed to cross; and since then, although the guards have not been removed, the bridges have been free.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 211.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 323. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, October 5, 1880.*

M. LIPPICH, the Austrian Consul-General at Scutari, under instructions from his Government, telegraphed the other day to Dulcigno for four notables of the place to be sent to him to receive an important communication. The Dulcigniotes, under the impression that he would announce to them that a change had arisen about the cession of their town, hastened to comply with M. Lippich's request, but the deputation was greatly disappointed to find that he was merely charged to tell them that they had nothing to fear from the Montenegrin Administration, especially as in maritime matters the Austrian Government would have the control. M. Lippich added that he was also ordered to explain how utterly futile it was for the Dulcigniotes to attempt to resist a decision which would be carried out by all the Powers of Europe; but, unfortunately, the deputation declined to listen to his arguments, and left him declaring that their fellow-townsmen would oppose their transfer to Montenegro to the very last.

After M. Lippich's interview with the notables, Riza Pasha sent to summon them to his presence, but refusing to obey, the General informed them that he would prevent their return to Dulcigno. Thereupon about 300 Mussulmans of Scutari assembled to assist the four Dulcigniotes to leave the town by force. Through the wise intervention of M. Lippich, who explained that the notables had come to Scutari on his express invitation, Riza Pasha allowed them to depart.

I venture to here record that, notwithstanding the apparent determination of the Dulcigniotes to resist their annexation to Montenegro, and Riza Pasha's inability to stem the wishes of the Albanians, the Dulcigno arrangement stands on a sound foundation, and its solution depends merely on the wish of the Porte to exercise an authority which it has always fully possessed in the district in question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 212.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 954. Extender.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 6, 1880.*

I HAD this afternoon the honour to receive your Lordship's telegraphic instruction of this morning, and, in obedience to the instruction contained in it, I went

immediately to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, and informed him that the Italian Government had fully accepted the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that the allied squadrons should be sent to Smyrna, and should hold that port as a material guarantee, subject to the adhesion of the Powers, and to the conditions of the self-denying Protocol.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire thanked me for the information, and said that, before giving me an answer to the proposal on the part of the French Government, it would be necessary for him to communicate with the President of the Republic, who is at Mont-sous-Vaudrey, in the Jura.

It was not until some hours after I had left M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire that I received from your Lordship, with an instruction to communicate it to the French Government, a repetition of a telegram from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Rome, reporting that the proposal of Her Majesty's Government was under the consideration of the Italian Cabinet. As I had already informed his Excellency of the decision of the Italian Cabinet, it seemed to me to be unnecessary, and, indeed, unadvisable, to communicate this telegram to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 213.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 958.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 8, 1880.*

In my despatch No. 948 of the 5th instant I had the honour to report that I had placed in M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire's hand a memorandum giving the substance of Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson's despatch to Mr. Goschen of the 4th ultimo, respecting the treatment and condition of the minor populations in the Department of Bourgas.

I have to-day sent to his Excellency, confidentially, one of the copies of Colonel Wilson's despatch which have been transmitted to me in your Lordship's letter of the 6th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 214.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 9.)

(Secret.)
Sir, *Admiralty, October 8, 1880.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, dated the 8th October, 1880, from Baosich.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 214.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Baosich, October 8, 1880, 7·35 P.M.*

RUSSIAN Minister at Cettinjé has told everybody the destination of the fleet. Consequences may be imagined.

No orders as yet have been received by any except Russian [?]. I have seen his instructions, which tell him what is proposed, and instructing him to act entirely in conjunction with me.

I shall do nothing until my instructions reach me; when they come the rendezvous will be Schio, as the Russian Admiral must go to the Piræus to coal and provision.

No. 215.

Pro-memoria communicated to Earl Granville by M. von Hengelmüller, October 9.

BARON HAYMERLE has told Sir Henry Elliot:—

"Nous partageons l'avis de Lord Granville que la dernière note de la Porte, dont le texte nous n'est parvenu qu'aujourd'hui, n'offre point de base pour un arrangement ni pour des négociations ou communications ultérieures.

"Très-désireux de maintenir le concert entre les Puissances nous admettons volontiers la proposition Anglaise sous la réserve du protocole de désintéressement et de l'entière sauvegarde des intérêts maritimes et commerciaux de nos nationaux.

"Nous croyons qu'une partie des revenus séquestrés devrait, jusqu'à la remise de Dulcigno, être assignée au Monténégro à titre de compensation pour les sacrifices que le refus de la Porte lui impose.

"Cependant nous ne pouvons ne pas nous préoccuper de l'éventualité que ces mesures, malgré les intentions modérées des Puissances, pourraient dans leur développement ultérieur constituer un acte de guerre ou entraîner vers un tel, ce que nous voulons éviter, ainsi que nous l'avons constaté à différentes reprises.

"En nous abstenant d'envoyer des bâtiments de guerre à Smyrne, nous croyons rester dans l'ordre d'idées dont Lord Granville s'est inspiré lorsqu'il proposa la démonstration navale; elle devait se faire avec le concours matériel d'une Puissance qui serait disposée à envoyer des bâtiments."

Belgrave Square, October 9, 1880.

No. 216.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 171.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 9, 1880.*

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, telegram No. 290.

Baron Haymerle concurs in the opinion that, in consequence of the character of the last Turkish note, it was not desirable for the Ambassadors to make any fresh communication to the Porte without instructions, and he has telegraphed in this sense to Baron Calice.

No. 217.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 9, 1880.*

GREEK Government very anxious to know as soon as it is determined to take active measures to carry out stipulations of Treaty of Berlin. Should the Powers decide on such a course, Greek Government would at once call out the trained reserve, in order to be prepared for eventualities.

No. 218.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9.)

(No. 106. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 9, 1880.*

I AM privately informed that Prince Bismarck has advised the Emperor to join with Austria in declining to take part in the Smyrna demonstration, which German Ambassador at Constantinople is of opinion the Porte will resist by force; and Prince Bismarck thinks the Powers will fail from want of landing troops, as at Dulcigno.

No. 219.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9, 7·15 P.M.)

(No. 26. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Baosich, October 9, 1880, 6·37 P.M.*

THE Admiral has this morning received a telegraphic draft of instructions for the occupation of Smyrna. There are a few points concerning which the Admiral feels that supplementary instructions may be urgently required.

These are, first, if the local authorities (it may be presumed Turks) persist in active and passive obstruction, will the Admiral be acting within his powers if (with the concurrence of the other Admirals) he appoints others? second, is the executive authority to be in the hands of the Senior Naval Officer, subject, of course, immediately to the decision of the conference of the Admirals (it would be hardly possible to refer every one of the innumerable questions of detail which must arise to the decision of this conference)? third, is the landing of seamen and marines to be permitted if it is necessary, or does the prohibition of this step apply also in the case of Smyrna?

The Admiral feels that it is most desirable that he should have an early intimation of the wishes of Her Majesty's Government on these points.

No. 220.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 9, 8·25 P.M.)

(No. 114.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October 9, 1880, 7 P.M.*

SIR H. ELLIOT'S telegram No. 170.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs has received from Vienna the Austrian answer, and has been informed by the German Minister here that the German answer will probably be similar.

The French Cabinet consider the situation to be entirely changed. They would have been anxious to act, if possible, with all the Powers, but they cannot act with less than all. They hope Her Majesty's Government will now make fresh proposals which may lead to identic action on the part of all the six Powers.

French Ambassador in London will be instructed by telegraph to make immediately a communication in this sense to your Lordship.

No. 221.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 581.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 9, 1880.*

AS I observe that statements have been made that the allied fleet, in supporting the Prince of Montenegro in obtaining possession of Dulcigno, would have bombarded the town, Her Majesty's Government think that your Excellency should take any opportunity which may be afforded of publicly contradicting this report.

As your Excellency is aware, there has never been any intention of inflicting any injury on the town or on the peaceable inhabitants of the district, and it was unanimously resolved at the conference of the allied Commanders held on board Her Majesty's ship "Alexandra" on the 22nd ultimo, "that under no circumstances should a shot be fired which would endanger the lives of the inhabitants of Dulcigno, but that if it unfortunately should become necessary to support the Montenegrin advance by the fire of the shipping, such fire should be directed on the entrenchments and redoubts on the Mazura heights, or those on the hills north of Dulcigno, and, if necessary, on the fortress of Dulcigno, which stands on rising ground clear of the town.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 222.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 660 A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 9, 1880.*

THE Austrian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon and gave me the inclosed memorandum,* which he said was the exact text of Baron Haymerle's reply to our proposal that the united fleet should proceed to Smyrna and hold it as a material guarantee.

M. Hengelmüller observed that the terms of the reply showed the desire of his Government to keep well with this country. He added that the Austrian Government considered that they were acting upon the principle which we had ourselves laid down in the question of the demonstration off Dulcigno, that the actual participation of the ships of all the Powers in the measures to be taken was not necessary.

I said that I had no desire to enter into an argument on the communication just made, but that I could not see the analogy he sought to draw. Throughout the negotiations with regard to the Dulcigno question we had always considered it to be of great importance that the fleet should represent the action of the whole of the Powers. But we were and are still of opinion that in the first instance the ships of one or two Powers would have been amply sufficient if acknowledged as the mandatories of the Powers, and that they would even have been much more efficient than a fleet which was hampered in its operations by limits which had been placed on its operations at the desire of some of the Powers; the matter, however, was very different when the fleet had been assembled, and it was proposed to withdraw from it the ships of some of the Powers.

M. Hengelmüller observed that his Government had been much influenced by the apprehension that some of the Powers might be induced, in consequence of so decided a step as that contemplated, to take other measures of a warlike character as being its logical consequence, and that thus Austria might find herself unexpectedly involved in hostilities with Turkey.

I answered that I could not perceive that this argument applied more to the present case than to the demonstration off Dulcigno. On that occasion the Austrian vessels would have been ready to fire, in case of need, and to let the vessels of other Powers fire. A cannonade seemed to me to be as warlike a measure as the seizure of a custom-house.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 223.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 554 A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October 9, 1880.*

IN reply to your Excellency's despatch No. 446 of the 1st instant, I have to authorize you to state to Count Maffei that there is no foundation for any such report as that mentioned by his Excellency to you as coming from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs, that it was the intention of Her Majesty's Government to cede Cyprus to Greece.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 224.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 423.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 5, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith a copy of a note which has been addressed by the Sublime Porte, "under order from the Sultan, and by direction of the Council of Ministers," to the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople, for submission to their several Cabinets, containing the views and definitive resolutions of the Ottoman Government upon the various questions at issue between the Porte and the foreign Powers.

* No. 216.

I have had the honour to communicate to your Lordship by telegraph a summary of the contents of this document.

Up to the present moment I have not received the promised official map showing the line of the Greek frontier now proposed by the Porte.

I shall give my own views in regard to the note in a separate despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 224.

Assim Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

Sublime Porte, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, le 3 Octobre, 1880.

LE Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, est chargé, d'ordre Impérial, et par décision du Conseil des Ministres, de soumettre les considérations et les résolutions définitives suivantes du Gouvernement Ottoman à la sérieuse et bienveillante attention de leurs Excellences MM. les Ambassadeurs de la Grande Bretagne, d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, d'Italie, et de Russie, en les priant de vouloir bien les communiquer au plus tôt à leurs Cabinets respectifs.

Le Gouvernement Ottoman avait déclaré aux Puissances Signataires qu'il ferait évacuer Dulcigno, à la condition que les droits des populations soient sauvegardés, que les bases du *statu quo* soient maintenues, et qu'on renonce définitivement à la démonstration navale.

Il résulte des dépêches télégraphiques parvenues à la Sublime Porte de la part des Représentants Ottomans, ainsi que des récentes déclarations de leurs Excellences les Ambassadeurs, que la première des trois conditions dont il s'agit est confirmée à nouveau, attendu qu'elle est déjà prévue par le Traité de Berlin, qu'aucun engagement n'est pris relativement à la seconde condition, et qu'en ce qui concerne la troisième, son acceptation par les Puissances est impossible.

Cependant, les escadres combinées des Puissances se trouvent réunies à Raguse, en se préparant à l'action, et l'on ne saurait dès à présent prévoir les inconvénients et les difficultés qui en seront les conséquences possibles.

La raison officiellement annoncée pour le moment au sujet de la démonstration navale ne se rattache qu'au fait seul de mettre Dulcigno en la possession du Monténégro. Mais il n'en est pas moins vrai que la non-obtention des assurances demandées, ainsi que la tournure des choses, certaines circonstances et des informations parvenues au Gouvernement donnent lieu à penser à celui-ci que la démonstration précitée se fera également à l'occasion de la solution de la question Hellénique, et qu'elle se fera peut-être aussi, en s'appuyant sur le Traité de Berlin, au sujet des réformes à introduire dans les localités habitées par les Arméniens, ainsi qu'au sujet du service de la Dette Publique Ottomane et de l'indemnité Russe.

En conséquence, le Gouvernement Impérial, en vue d'écarter d'une manière définitive, dans le présent comme dans l'avenir, le projet en question de la démonstration navale, qui ne tend à rien moins qu'à mettre en péril les droits de l'Empire, vient énumérer, un à un, d'une manière précise et catégorique, tout ce qu'il lui sera possible de faire par rapport aux questions sus-énoncées et prévues par le Traité de Berlin.

Question Monténégrine.

Le Gouvernement Ottoman s'engage à céder et à faire évacuer Dulcigno, en maintenant la ligne du *statu quo*, aussitôt que les Puissances lui auront donné les assurances qu'il leur a demandées par sa dernière note, et qu'il leur demande cette fois encore. Les autorités Impériales informeront la population locale qu'elle est libre de rester dans ses foyers ou d'émigrer dans d'autres parties de l'Empire; elles lui prodigueront tous les conseils et useront des moyens de persuasion voulus pour cet objet. Si ces tentatives viennent à échouer, les troupes et les autorités locales se retireront aux frontières, et le Gouvernement Ottoman ne sera point tenu responsable de n'importe quelle complication qui pourrait surgir sur les lieux à la suite d'un tel insuccès.

Question Hellénique

Le Gouvernement Ottoman avait demandé aux Puissances d'excepter de la délimitation proposée pour les frontières Helléniques, la cession à la Grèce de Janina, de

Tchamouri, de Metzovo, et de Larisse; et quant aux autres points, il s'était déclaré prêt à négocier la fixation d'une ligne définitive. En réponse, les Puissances l'ont informé que la décision prise par la Conférence de Berlin ne pouvait être modifiée. Cependant, en présence de l'agitation des esprits à Janina, et dans le pays de Tchamouri, et vu la grande quantité de propriétés et d'établissements religieux ainsi que la multiplicité des intérêts de la population Musulmane de Larisse, vu enfin la grande importance de la position stratégique de Metzovo, la cession de ces points est réellement impossible. Le Gouvernement Impérial se trouve en conséquence obligé de maintenir sa décision antérieure, mais, d'un autre côté, modifiant sa proposition de négocier la fixation d'une ligne-frontière, il croit devoir soumettre aux Puissances la carte officielle ci-annexée, laquelle, laissant à la Turquie les quatres localités qui précèdent, indique définitivement le tracé ci-après de la ligne qui peut être fixée. La nouvelle ligne-frontière commence au nord par la position de Capidja, en laissant Yénidjé à la Turquie, et passe entre les montagnes de Mavrovono et Sivri. Elle laisse ensuite les villages de Muéminlar et de Doghan à la Grèce, et ceux de Moussalar et de Hadjiler à la Turquie, et suit une ligne courbe qui se dirige vers le sud parallèlement au cours de la Rivière de Kustem (Salambria), à une distance approximative de deux ou trois heures de la ville de Larisse. Puis elle va, du côté de Tchataldja, au point de jonction de Salambria avec son affluent vis-à-vis du village de Zark, et de là, en remontant le cours du Salambria, elle traverse la gorge de Porto avec la branche du Salambria qui coule vers cette même gorge et court ensuite vers le nord par les sommets de la chaîne d'Agrafa pour arriver au village de Vindechté. De là, la dite frontière, laissant à la Grèce les villages de Castagna et de Halili, se dirige par le sommet de la Montagne de Rosgoim vers le fleuve Arta, en face du village de Kalendjé, et vient aboutir, en suivant le cours de ce même fleuve, au Golfe d'Arta.

Dans le délai de 100 jours à partir de celui où les assurances demandées aux Puissances seraient obtenues, le Gouvernement Ottoman cédera au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Hellénique les localités indiquées par le tracé qui précède et dans les mêmes formes que celles désignées plus haut relativement à la cession de Dulcigno.

Réformes dans les Localités habitées par les Arméniens.

Le Gouvernement Ottoman ayant pris, en vertu de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin, l'engagement d'exécuter sans retard les réformes qu'exigent les besoins locaux dans les endroits habités par les Arméniens, de garantir leur sécurité contre les Circassiens et les Kurdes, et de faire connaître périodiquement les mesures à prendre à cet effet aux Puissances qui en surveilleront l'application, avait, après la conclusion de la paix, envoyé des inspecteurs sur les lieux. Si les communications faites aux Puissances Contractantes à l'égard de l'enquête confiée à ces inspecteurs ne furent pas complètes, c'est parce qu'à part quelques améliorations introduites à la hâte dans l'Administration de la Police de certaines localités, le Gouvernement Impérial n'avait pu accomplir toutes les réformes nécessaires.

A l'heure qu'il est, le Gouvernement a complété l'enquête prescrite par les soins de Baker Pacha et d'autres fonctionnaires de l'Empire, et il vient de décider de mettre en application les mesures suivantes:—

1. Dans le but de garantir l'ordre et la sécurité des habitants, les Tribunaux des Provinces d'Erzéroum, de Van, de Bitlis, et de Diarbékir seront encore mieux organisés et réformés, et un Muchir de l'Empire aura spécialement pour mission de surveiller cette réforme;

2. Dans un délai de trois mois à partir du jour où les assurances demandées aux Puissances seront obtenues, le Gouvernement Impérial réorganisera la police et la gendarmerie des provinces susnommées, afin d'y assurer d'une façon permanente l'ordre et la sécurité publics;

3. Les Colonels de Gendarmerie (Alaï Beyis) seront nommés par le Ministère Impérial de la Guerre. Le choix des autres officiers se fera par le soin des Conseils des régiments, et leur nomination sera confirmée par le Département de la Guerre sur la proposition des Gouverneurs-Généraux. Ceux-ci seront autorisés à répartir les agents de police dans leurs provinces, suivant les besoins locaux; et sur leur avis conforme le Ministre de la Guerre révoquera tous ceux des Colonels et officiers de gendarmerie qui seraient reconnus incapables d'exercer leurs fonctions;

4. Le mode d'organisation des communes, formulé dans la note de la Sublime Porte en date du 5 Juillet dernier, sera complété dans l'espace de quatre mois et dans des conditions conformes aux intérêts de l'Etat;

5. A l'exception des Douanes et des Contributions Indirectes, ainsi que des recettes

des postes et télégraphes, tous les autres revenus des provinces susindiquées seront destinés avant tout au service des prescriptions budgétaires provinciales qui comprennent les autres dépenses importantes. On prélèvera sur l'excédant de ces mêmes revenus 10 pour cent pour les besoins locaux, tels que l'instruction et les travaux publics, et le reste, ainsi que l'excédant qui pourrait se produire dans la dite allocation de 10 pour cent, seront expédiés à Constantinople;

6. Le choix et la nomination des fonctionnaires judiciaires de la province se feront conformément au règlement spécial existant, et, quant aux fonctionnaires d'Administration, ceux-ci seront nommés, en vertu d'une Ordonnance Impériale rendue sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général, appuyée par l'avis conforme des Ministères dont ils relèvent. Les Gouverneurs-Généraux auront la faculté, en observant le réglement y relatif, de révoquer et de nommer les fonctionnaires d'Administration de leurs provinces, à l'exception des Préfets (Mutessarifs), des Directeurs des Finances (Defterdars), et des Secrétaires-Généraux (Mektoubjis). Dans le choix de ces fonctionnaires on ne devra avoir en vue que le mérite et la probité. Seront admis aux emplois publics tous les sujets de l'Empire, aux termes de l'Article LXII du Traité de Berlin, et d'après les dispositions mêmes des lois Ottomanes existantes, pourvu qu'ils réunissent les susdites qualités requises;

7. Les Tribunaux Nizamiés appliqueront le Code Ottoman (Medjellé), et les autres lois en vigueur dans l'Empire.

Règlement Organique des Provinces Européennes de l'Empire.

Aux termes de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, la Sublime Porte s'est engagée à introduire des réglements spéciaux dans celles des provinces de la Turquie d'Europe qui n'ont pas eu jusqu'à ce jour une organisation particulière, à adapter ces règlements aux besoins locaux, à instituer des Commissions spéciales au sein desquelles l'élément indigène sera largement représenté et qui devront élaborer les détails de ces nouveaux règlements dans chaque province. D'après le même Article, les projets d'organisation résultant de ces travaux seront soumis à l'examen de la Sublime Porte, qui, avant de promulguer les Rescrits ou Firmans destinés à les mettre en vigueur, prendra l'avis de la Commission Européenne instituée pour la Roumélie Orientale.

Ces engagements, le Gouvernement Impérial a tenu à les remplir et il a délibéré là-dessus avec la Commission Européenne. Le projet de Règlement très-détaillé qui a été élaboré à cet effet ne peut avoir essentiellement pour but que de sanctionner des concessions qui ne soient pas de nature à amener une séparation des provinces en question de l'Empire qui assurent la souveraineté pleine et entière de la Sublime Porte et garantissent le repos et la sécurité de toutes les classes de la population, toutes choses qui doivent être en parfaite harmonie avec tous les droits et les intérêts de l'Empire. Voilà donc le point de vue qui devra servir de base au document précité, lequel, après avoir reçu la sanction de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, sera mis en vigueur.

Question Financière.

La Sublime Porte invitera directement et par le canal de ses Représentants à l'étranger, les Délégués des porteurs des titres de la Dette Publique Ottomane à se rendre à Constantinople pour s'entendre avec le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman sans aucune ingérence de la part des Puissances, sur le service de la dette susdite, ainsi que sur la question de l'indemnité Russe, et pour délibérer sur les conditions d'un arrangement équitable à cet égard. Ces conditions se résument ainsi qu'il suit.

Une fois l'entente établie entre le Gouvernement et les Délégués des porteurs, ces derniers désigneront une banque qui fonctionnera au lieu et place de l'Administration des six Contributions Indirectes ("Rouimoumesette"). Le nouvel établissement financier devra gérer les revenus que l'Administration des six Contributions encaisse jusqu'à ce jour.

De même, en cas d'une modification des Traités de Commerce, dans le sens de l'augmentation des droits de Douane actuels de 8 pour cent, la différence entre ces 8 pour cent et le chiffre de l'augmentation future, ainsi que l'excédant de revenus qui devra résulter de l'application générale de la loi sur les patentes, comparativement (?) aux recettes de l'impôt du "temettu" (income tax), enfin, les redevances de la Roumélie Orientale et de Chypre, ainsi que le tribut de la Bulgarie, et une partie de l'excédant qui se produirait au fur et à mesure de l'augmentation des revenus actuels de l'Etat, seront également affectés au payement des intérêts et à l'amortissement de la Dette

Publique de l'Empire. La dette flottante et l'indemnité de guerre à payer au Gouvernement Russe feront de même partie du même arrangement.

L'Administration des six Contributions et des revenus à ajouter qui viennent d'être énumérés, ainsi que le mode de leur paiement pour le service de la dette, seront dévolus à la banque choisie par les délégués des détenteurs. Toutefois, le Gouvernement aura le droit de contrôler les revenus en question et, en particulier, la gestion des six Contributions.

Voilà tout ce que pourra faire le Gouvernement Ottoman pour le réglement des affaires Monténégrine, Hellénique, et financière, ainsi que pour les réformes des localités habitées par les Arméniens, et le réglement organique pour les provinces Européennes de l'Empire, d'après l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin.

Le Soussigné a la ferme conviction que les six Cabinets, dans leurs sentiments de haute équité et de sollicitude particulière pour le maintien de la paix en Orient, verront une garantie sérieuse de la bonne volonté du Gouvernement Impérial dans les larges concessions précitées qu'il est résolu à faire, à la condition que les Puissances abandonneront totalement le projet de démonstration navale.

Dès lors, il aime à espérer que, de leur côté, les Puissances, prenant en considération son désir légitime de se voir à l'abri de toute appréhension pour l'avenir et d'être rassuré sur des éventualités de conflits et de complications qu'il est de l'intérêt de tous de prévenir, voudront bien adhérer aux assurances auxquelles il s'attend avec confiance.

En résumant les raisons qui militent en faveur de ces assurances demandées, le Soussigné croit devoir répéter ici que le Gouvernement Impérial ne saurait nullement être tenu responsable des complications qui pourraient surgir à la suite de l'évacuation de Dulcigno par les autorités et les troupes Ottomanes, et que les mesures qui seraient prises pour la répression de désordre ou pour la possession de ces territoires ne leur toucheraient en rien.

Si cependant les Puissances entendraient toujours recourir à des démonstrations navales et à des pressions sur la Sublime Porte, de telles démonstrations et de telles pressions auraient d'autant moins leur raison d'être, qu'une fois les questions Monténégrine et Hellénique réglées suivant les modes de solution indiquées dans la présente note, il ne resterait plus que les réformes des provinces habitées par les Arméniens, réformes auxquelles les communications officielles susdites pourvoient pleinement. Quant aux questions des finances et de l'indemnité de guerre à payer à la Russie, bien qu'elles ne fussent pas l'objet d'une stipulation spéciale du Traité de Berlin, cependant la Sublime Porte, dans dans son vif désir de relever son crédit et de prendre en considération les réclamations de ses créanciers, a décidé, comme il a été énoncé ci-dessus, de convoquer les représentants des porteurs de titres de la Dette Ottomane pour arriver à un arrangement équitable et satisfaisant.

Il va sans dire que si les Puissances concevaient le moindre doute sur les communications et les actes précités de la Sublime Porte, elles seraient libres de surveiller pendant les délais fixés l'exécution de ses promesses qui se rattachent au Traité de Berlin; et dans le cas où, à l'expiration de ces délais, les Cabinets viendraient à constater dûment la non-réalisation de ces mêmes promesses, ils seraient en droit tout aussi bien que le Gouvernement Impérial de réserver leur entière liberté d'action.

Il devient donc nécessaire que le Gouvernement Impérial soit assuré dès à présent qu'on a renoncé définitivement, pour le présent et pour l'avenir, à la démonstration navale et à toute pression exercée sur l'Empire.

Le Soussigné croit devoir faire en même temps remarquer que le Gouvernement Ottoman en s'appuyant à son tour sur le même Traité de Berlin, revendique les droits qui lui reviennent concernant la démolition des forteresses du Danube et l'occupation des Balkans par les troupes Ottomanes, toutes choses dont il n'a pas pressé jusqu'à ce jour la mise à exécution par égard pour de hautes susceptibilités.

En somme, le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman ne désire à l'heure qu'il est qu'une chose: celle de sauvegarder les droits revendiqués ci-dessus, droits découlant du Traité de Berlin, et d'obtenir de l'équité des Puissances les assurances qui viennent d'être énoncées.

Le Soussigné saisit, &c. (Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 225.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 961.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 8, 1880.*

I HAD this morning the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 1332 of yesterday, respecting the offer made by your Lordship, as regarded the Greek question, to consult the French Government first of all.

I spoke to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire in the terms of your Lordship's despatch this afternoon.

His Excellency said that he entirely understood that your Lordship's offer did not imply the slightest intention on the part of Her Majesty's Government of acting separately from the other Powers.

The offer was, he said, very natural, considering the course previously taken by France in treating the Greek question; he highly appreciated the courtesy and consideration towards the French Government which had prompted it; and he would beg me to convey to your Lordship his thanks for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 226.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 964.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 9, 1880.*

M. BARTHÉLEMY ST. HILAIRE read to me this evening a telegram from the French Chargé d'Affaires at Vienna, stating the terms of the answer of the Austro-Hungarian Government to the proposal of the Government of Her Majesty that the allied squadrons should go to Smyrna.

The telegram added that Baron Orczy, in communicating the Austrian answer to the Chargé d'Affaires, had said that he had reason to believe that the German Government would reply in the same sense.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire told me also that M. de Radowitz, the German Minister here, had let him know that the German answer would in all probability be similar to that of Austria-Hungary.

I learnt from M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire that the matter had been considered in the Council of Ministers in the afternoon; and his Excellency went on to say that the French Government considered the situation to be entirely changed. They would have been anxious to go as far as possible in order to act with all the other Powers, but they could not act with less than all. The refusal of the Austrian Government to allow its squadron to take part in the proposed operation at Smyrna made it quite impossible for the French to take any part in it. In their earnest desire to maintain the concert of the six Powers, the French Government trusted that Her Majesty's Government would now make fresh proposals of a nature to lead to identic action on the part of all six Powers.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire said, in conclusion, that he was about to dispatch a telegram to the French Ambassador in London directing him to make a communication to your Lordship in the above sense.

That communication will no doubt make the views of the French Government known to your Lordship in detail. So far as I can judge, there seems to be an essential difference between those views and the sentiments of the Government of Austria.

The Austrian Government seems to sanction, if not to desire, the execution of the proposal respecting Smyrna by England and such Powers as are willing to join her, although it refuses to take any active part itself.

On the other hand, the French Government seems anxious that the proposal shall be held to have fallen entirely to the ground.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 227.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 10, 3·15 A.M.)

(No. 91.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, October* 9, 1880, 2 P.M.

MACEDONIA Committee having lately asked for removal of Austrian Director administering militia, Austrian Consul, under instructions from Vienna, officially informed Governor-General yesterday that his Government would consider his dismissal as an act of animosity against Austria.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 228.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 10, 3·40 A.M.)

(No. 295.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 9, 1880, 10 P.M.

I HAVE communicated to Persian Embassy substance of information received from Tehran, and fact respecting invasion of Persian territory by Kurds and Nesagaians. They were not aware that the frontier had been crossed, their last news being dated four days ago.

Porte, to whom I communicated same news, only informed me that an important telegram was expected from Mosul.

No. 229.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 10, 3·40 A.M.)

(No. 296.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 9, 1880, 10 P.M.

I HAVE learnt that Porte has to-day received news from Paris that England has proposed occupation of port of Smyrna; also that telegrams received by the Porte from all the capitals were very unfavourable to the Ottoman Government.

Rumours of a demonstration at Smyrna, Salonica, or among the islands of the Archipelago, have been also about the town. In fact the general project has ceased to be a secret to-day.

No. 230.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 10, 3·40 A.M.)

(No. 297.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 9, 1880, 11·55 P.M.

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Under-Secretary have called on the several Ambassadors to-night, and informed them that the Government will cede Dulcigno immediately; they had received better news from Albania; a calmer feeling prevailed. They will send us a note to-morrow night communicating this resolution, and at the same time expressing their hope that the naval demonstration would not take place, as being no longer necessary.

In reply to an inquiry from me, his Excellency replied that they would promise cession, not simply evacuation. Further, that the Prime Minister was a party to the communication he made to-day, and that the Sultan agreed, but that the formalities of a decision of the Council were still necessary, but would be completed to-morrow.

Orders would be sent to Riza Pasha to-morrow night.

No. 231.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 10, 4·55 P.M.)

(No. 298.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 10, 1880, 2·20 P.M.

I PRESUME no general answer will be made to the last note.

The Powers will probably deal with the Montenegrin business on the communication to be received to-night.

The Greek question will now have to be dealt with separately.

I advise to reply to the financial part of the question by immediately opening up the question of the Commission recommended in the 18th Protocol of the Berlin Congress.

The Organic Statute to be dealt with under collective instructions, information being given, and explanations as to the precise meaning of the note relating to it to be asked at once.

The negotiations with regard to the Asia Minor reforms should also be treated as urgent.

It will be important to consider whether all questions should be pushed simultaneously, or, if not, in what order they should be taken. I can scarcely form an opinion myself till I know what the Cabinet determine as to programme in the Greek question, as the general attitude of the Turks will probably be determined by the manner in which the Powers act in this respect.

No. 232.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 10.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Budsich, October* 10, 1880.

THE "Standard" correspondent, just arrived from the Montenegrin capital, assures me that the news of the proposed Smyrna occupation was communicated to him personally by the Russian Secretary of Legation, evidently by superior order. It was telegraphed from the Montenegrin capital to the Porte the same day.

No. 233.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 675.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1880.

I ASKED German Chargé d'Affaires yesterday to ascertain by telegraph whether, in case German Government were not willing to send vessel to Smyrna, they would consent to constitute Powers, whose ships may appear there, the mandatories of Europe to the same extent as in case of occupation of Lebanon.

Also whether German Government would instruct Consul at Smyrna to co-operate with our naval officers, and would join in collective representation to the Porte.

I added Porte would not be a party now as it was to Lebanon Convention.

No. 234.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 726.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1880, 2·30 P.M.

I ASKED yesterday Austrian Chargé d'Affaires to ascertain whether we are to understand Austrian answer as constituting those Powers whose ships may appear before Smyrna the mandatories of Europe, so far as the consent of Austria is concerned, to the same extent as in case of the occupation of the Lebanon of 1861. Also, whether Austrian Government would instruct Consul at Smyrna to co-operate with our naval officers, and would join in collective representation to the Porte.

I added Porte would not be a party now as it was to Lebanon Convention.

No. 235.

Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 651. Extender.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1880.

I ASKED Baron von den Brincken yesterday to ascertain by telegraph whether, in the event of the German Government not being willing to send a vessel of war to Smyrna, they would consent to constitute those Powers whose ships may appear there the mandatories of Europe to the same extent as in the case of the occupation of the Lebanon in 1861.

I also inquired whether the German Government would instruct their Consul at Smyrna to co-operate with Her Majesty's naval officers, and would be prepared to concert and take part in the joint representation to be made to the Porte.

I added that the Porte would not be a party in the present case, as it was to the Lebanon Convention of September 1861.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 236.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 670. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 10, 1880.

I ASKED the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires yesterday to ascertain by telegraph whether Her Majesty's Government are to understand the answer of his Government as constituting those Powers whose ships may appear before Smyrna the mandatories of Europe, so far as the consent of Austria is concerned, to the same extent as in the case of the occupation of the Lebanon in 1861.

I also inquired whether the Austro-Hungarian Government would instruct their Consul at Smyrna to co-operate with Her Majesty's naval officers, and would be prepared to concert and take part in the joint representation to be made to the Porte.

I added that the Porte would not be a party in the present case, as it was in the Lebanon Convention of September 1861.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 237.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 344. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, September* 25, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 334 of the 11th instant, I learn from a trustworthy source that a number of Russian officers have lately arrived in Eastern Roumelia wearing plain clothes.

They arrived, I am told, singly and in batches of two or three, my informant estimating the total number at about forty. After remaining a night or two at Philippopoli, the greater part of them are said to have left for the Balkan district.

I beg, moreover, to report to your Lordship that thirty officers from the military school at Sophia, and said to be natives of Eastern Roumelia, are staying in this town, with a view, it is stated, of obtaining commissions in the provincial militia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 238.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 320. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, September* 29, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that when I reached Cattaro on the 23rd instant, on my way from Albania to Ragusa, I found that Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour and Captain Sale were up at Cettinjé, and were returning on the following day. I therefore awaited their arrival at Cattaro, and on the Saturday morning accompanied the Admiral in Her Majesty's ship "Helicon" to Ragusa.

Observing, after the lapse of two days, and after I had told Sir Beauchamp Seymour that I was entirely at his disposal, that I was of no service to him as he had apparently no need whatever to confer with me, transacting all matters through Captain Sale and the Montenegrin Agent, I suggested to the Admiral that it would be perhaps better for me to proceed to my post at Cettinjé where, should anything arise unconnected with the military part of the expected surrender of Dulcigno, I might intervene in the legitimate discharge of my duties as Her Majesty's Representative in Montenegro. Sir Beauchamp Seymour entirely concurred in this suggestion, and enabled me to accompany Voïvoda Radonich, who had come to Ragusa to make a communication to the Admiral, in Her Majesty's ship "Helicon" to Cattaro, whence we reached Cettinjé yesterday.

I am sure, however, I need hardly add that at the first summons from the Admiral, or even if I myself should perceive the desirableness of my being at Ragusa, that I will not delay one single moment to proceed there. In the meantime I am careful to keep the Admiral informed of all that can be of any use to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 239.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 434 A. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 1, 1880.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 745, repeating Sir H. Elliot's telegram No. 162, reporting the three points which Baron Haymerle had mentioned as requiring to be expressly kept in view, I have the honour to state that the Austrian Ambassador was good enough to read me the instruction which he had just received from Vienna in this matter.

The first point was put stronger in this telegram to Count Kalnoky than Baron Haymerle appears to have put it to Her Majesty's Ambassador. Baron Haymerle says that his main object is to prevent the "confusion" (a German word not usual in official documents, and which is equivalent to "great mess") which exists at Dulcigno, extending to the relation of the Powers amongst each other.

I would further observe that Baron Haymerle in this instruction to Count Kalnoky lays, as Sir H. Elliot had reported, great stress on the absolute necessity of avoiding all risk of being dragged into a war with Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 240.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 435. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 30, 1880.

BARON JOMINI expressed to me this afternoon the apprehension which he feels at the turn which affairs have taken at Dulcigno, and said that the Powers who, in this affair, had followed the lead of England, were now waiting to learn what course your Lordship would propose to adopt in view of Riza Pasha's refusal to evacuate what he considers to be Turkish territory until he has received orders from the Porte to retire.

Baron Jomini went on to say that he considered that there was nothing to do now

but to go on, to Constantinople even, if necessary; and that, in any case, the Powers must acknowledge the necessity of securing the Prince of Montenegro from suffering harm for having undertaken to obey the invitation of Europe.

I told Baron Jomini I could not discuss matters upon which I had no instructions, but I expressed my opinion that the deadlock had arisen from the delays in carrying out the Naval Demonstration, some of which were caused by the Prince of Montenegro himself.

Baron Jomini, alluding to the last proposition made by Artim Effendi to the German Ambassador at Constantinople, said he did not see how it was possible for the Powers to come to any practical decision before next Sunday (the 3rd October). Therefore, although he had no confidence in the Sultan's promises, and believed that it was only His Majesty alone and his immediate Court who were making the opposition, he thought it would be wise of the Powers to accede to this fresh postponement of action; and he was under the impression that M. de Novikow had already received instructions in this sense. At the same time, his Excellency went on to insist that if, after the 3rd, the Sultan has done no more than hitherto, some serious step must be taken to vindicate the authority of the Powers and to prevent the Demonstration in the Adriatic becoming an object of derision to the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 241.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 435 A. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 30, 1880.

WHILE defending, yesterday, the action of the Sultan in refusing to instruct Riza Pasha to retire from Dulcigno, Azarian Effendi, the First Secretary of the Turkish Embassy, said Turkey felt that her whole existence as an independent State is at stake. It is not the few acres, more or less, which the Powers now desire to give to Montenegro, which the Porte is defending; it is especially Janina which she is now thinking of.

I learn from one of my colleagues that Baron Jomini has lately observed, in private conversation with some of the foreign Representatives, that it is England who had led Montenegro and the Powers into the present difficulty; and I have heard from other trustworthy sources that the Emperor is irritated at the dangers to which the Prince of Montenegro is exposed, and at the blow which will be given to Russian prestige should the Prince suffer harm for obeying an invitation in which Russia has taken part.

If the Naval Demonstration should now fail in obtaining any result, I fear Russia may try to shift the blame on to Great Britain, and then, assuming the part of Turkey's true friend, endeavour to mediate between the Powers and the Porte on the basis of obtaining everything for Montenegro, and of making considerable concessions to Turkey on the Greek frontier question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 242.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 436. Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 30, 1880.

BARON JOMINI mentioned to me this afternoon in course of conversation, that he noticed with pleasure that there seemed to be more disposition to energy, and less fear of responsibility, in the new Cabinet at Paris; but his Excellency did not enter into any details, beyond implying that there was less danger now of France withdrawing from the European concert than there would have been if M. de Freycinet were still at the head of affairs in France.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 243.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 437. Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, September* 30, 1880.

ONE of my colleagues mentioned to me this afternoon, in confidence, that the French Government is sounding the other Powers to learn what reply they would give if Her Majesty's Government were to propose a demonstration by the united fleets in the Dardanelles and at Constantinople as a means out of the difficulty at Dulcigno.

He would not, however, tell me what answer Russia was likely to return; but, judging from the inquiries which have lately been made of me, this would seem to be the proposal which most people in this country expect from Her Majesty's Government, and which would suit them best.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 244.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 440. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 5, 1880.

I LEARN confidentially from a trustworthy source that when M. Hitrovo, Russian Consul-General at Salonica, lately went to Livadia to make his report to the Emperor on the labours of the Eastern Roumelian Commission, he received from His Majesty a severe reprimand ("un fameux savon" were the words used to me) for the injudicious manner in which he had helped to increase the excitement in the Turkish European provinces, when, on the contrary, it was His Majesty's desire that every effort should be made to pacify public feeling.

This information has also been indirectly confirmed by a friend of M. Hitrovo, who, mentioning his bad reception at Livadia, added the hope that he would not be deprived of his post.

This information would tend to prove that the Emperor, at all events, is endeavouring to check the tide of Russian intrigue in the Balkan Peninsula; but past history has shown how very imperfectly His Majesty's orders are carried out by officers whose sympathies and interest lie in the opposite direction, and I cannot, at present, recall any instance where, for disobedience to Imperial instructions, any officer has been disavowed or publicly reprimanded after attaining the object for which he disobeyed those orders.

Baron Jomini, who, as your Lordship is aware, is often dangerously outspoken for an Acting Foreign Minister, lately observed to me, when talking over the influence which the army here was likely to have on the decision of the Chinese difficulty, "Vous savez bien; le Gouvernement et l'Empereur se tiehent pas mal de l'opinion publique, mais on n'ose pas mécontenter l'armée."

This phrase furnishes the key to most of the tangled net of Russian foreign policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 245.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 442. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 5, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that in a conversation I had yesterday with Baron Jomini, his Excellency stated that, according to the Reports sent home by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Athens, the Greeks are in a state of great excitement, and are suspected of contemplating a move next month to occupy the line accorded to them by the Berlin Conference.

The Greeks would seem, his Excellency added, to think that the time for action

has come; and that, should they be defeated, the Great Powers cannot decline to come to their assistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 246.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 445. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 5, 1880.*

I NOTICE in Lord Lyons' telegram No. 110, which your Lordship was so good as to repeat to me in your telegram No. 761 of yesterday, that M. Barthélemy de St. Hilaire had expressed the opinion that the Montenegrin, Greek, and Armenian questions should now be treated as one whole.

I think it right to warn your Lordship that I do not think this view will be shared by the Russian Government. Baron Jomini has on several occasions expressed very decidedly his opinion, that the Powers acted injudiciously in having brought forward so many questions together, and I expect that any proposal to risk the security of Montenegro, in which Russia takes the keenest interest, by mixing it up with the Greek question, in which she is more than lukewarm, or with the Armenian question, which she would desire not to see raised at all, will meet with an unfavourable reception at Livadia, unless one of the two latter is to be sacrificed.

Baron Jomini has frequently expressed his regret that the Armenian question should not have been left alone till the other matters were first settled, and when I have urged the pressing necessities of the unfortunate populations, he has replied that, by asking too much at once, the Powers would end in obtaining nothing.

In wishing to leave the Armenian question unsettled, Russia may, perhaps, be suspected of future designs which might be antagonistic to the views of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 247.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 450. Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 5, 1880.*

THE Turkish Ambassador called upon me yesterday, and not finding me at home, sent me a message that he particularly wished to see me.

I accordingly called on his Excellency to-day.

I found Chakir Pasha in a state of considerable agitation and excitement. He evidently desired to find out from me whether Her Majesty's Government are really in earnest in the naval demonstration; whether they are determined to go on to more energetic measures if necessary, and whether your Lordship might have informed me of any compromise by which the honour of the Sultan might be saved, while granting the demands made of him by the Powers.

Chakir Pasha said that the Sultan ought to yield, and must yield in the end, because if he resists the Powers must go on, and whatever their present wishes may be, the ultimate result of their action must be the breaking up the Turkish Empire.

On the other hand, if the Sultan now yields to the demands put forward with the menace of a naval demonstration, and without some, however trifling, concession to cover his retreat, His Majesty's prestige is lost; there will be risings against his authority; general anarchy will ensue, and the Turkish Empire will break to pieces as certainly as it would if he resisted and defied the Powers.

"Is this what England, the old ally of Turkey, now wants?" asked his Excellency, almost in piteous accents. "Does not England see that she is only playing the game for Russia? Tell me now, in confidence, do not your Government despair entirely of the future of Turkey, and have they not made up their minds to drive all Mahommedans out of Europe back into Asia, as the best way of finishing once for all with the Eastern question?"

I assured his Excellency, in the strongest language I could command, that such is not the wish of Her Majesty's Government. On the contrary, they always desire to see a strong and prosperous Turkey, and it is in the real interests of Turkey herself that the Powers are insisting on the advice which is so unpalatable to the Sultan.

His Excellency said, "How can you expect His Majesty not to make a face when you wish to cut off his right arm?"

I said, "In the first place, it is not the right arm of Turkey which the Powers now suggest should be cut off; it is only, so to say, a little finger; and, besides, if it is to save the life of the patient, who would hesitate about sacrificing an arm?"

Chakir Pasha then remarked, rather sneeringly, "I suppose England trusts Austria. If so she is wrong. Austria is not playing fair. She has already allowed it to be known at Constantinople that she will not be so exacting on the Greek question."

I replied that I had full confidence in the honesty of the Austrian Government, and that he was feeding himself with false illusions if he was building hopes on the probability of dissension among the Powers. So far the concord was perfect, and I trusted it would continue so.

His Excellency again returned to the subject, and said I should yet see Austria would leave England in the lurch.

I reminded Chakir Pasha that I had no authority to discuss these matters with the Turkish Ambassador, but that, speaking merely as a friend, I begged him to believe that Her Majesty's Government were now thoroughly in earnest, and that the best service he could render to his Sovereign was to urge him to accede without delay to the very moderate demands now put forward by the Powers. The Sultan had promised to give his answer to-day, and the Powers had stayed proceedings to await His Majesty's decision. If, unfortunately, His Majesty should refuse to accede to the demands of the Powers, the consequences must be extremely serious.

I said to the Turkish Ambassador that it was Turkey's own fault if England now found herself in temporary opposition to her. Had Turkey followed any of the advice so freely given by Her Majesty's Government? or had she, in any one place, taken serious steps to remedy the most crying evils?

Chakir Pasha admitted apparently that the opposition to the cession of Dulcigno is confined to the Sultan and his immediate Court.

"But," said he, "it is England who is to blame for the obstinacy of the Sultan. It is you who, for your own purposes, first flattered the Sultan and made him believe himself the greatest of men, and now you are suffering the consequences of your own former mistaken policy."

With regard to the above remark, it is well that I should remind your Lordship that Chakir Pasha is a supporter of the Midhat Constitution, which he still maintains is the only practical idea yet put forward for the regeneration of Turkey.

As I was leaving Chakir Pasha again exclaimed with earnestness: "I consider that to-day the future, not only of Turkey, but of Mahommedanism, is at stake. If the Powers have decided to drive us out of Europe we shall die fighting, and in the end who can tell who will win?"

"At present," his Excellency went on to say, "unless the Powers consent to smooth in some manner the way for the Sultan to draw back without too apparent discomfiture, His Majesty, who is in a highly excited state of nerves, will brave all the possible consequences of a refusal sooner than face the certainty of humiliation in the eyes of his subjects, if he should now, without any further conditions, submit to the dictation of the European fleets."

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 248.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 451. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 5, 1880.*

I CALLED at the Foreign Department this afternoon, and spoke to Baron Jomini in the sense of your Lordship's telegram No. 766 of yesterday.

His Excellency said he had not received any telegrams for the last two days, and begged me to tell him what were my latest accounts from Constantinople.

I then repeated to him the substance of Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 767 of the 4th instant.

His Excellency expressed much surprise at the mention by the Sultan, among the other subjects on which he might expect future pressure, of the war indemnity due to Russia, and said His Majesty need never fear a naval demonstration on that point.

Without reference to Livadia he could express, of course, only his personal opinion; but he thought, from the brief review I had given him of the Sultan's reply, that it must be considered by all the Powers as unacceptable.

The idea proposed by Her Majesty's Government that, in order to bring stronger pressure to bear upon the Sultan, the allied fleets should be transferred from the Adriatic to Smyrna, and should hold that port as a material guarantee, seemed to Baron Jomini to be excellent, provided, however, that the Powers, before taking this step, should first agree among themselves what would be the next measure to put further pressure upon the Sultan, in case this occupation of Smyrna should be insufficient to bring His Majesty to reason.

Baron Jomini seems now to think that the Sultan will hold out to the very last extremity, and therefore he fears that the move to Smyrna will not have any effect, unless the Porte is convinced that it will be followed up in the Dardanelles, and at Constantinople itself, if necessary.

I observed to his Excellency that he seemed to be contemplating war with Turkey, and, as far as I was aware, none of the Powers were yet prepared for such an eventuality.

To this he sharply replied that, if the Powers intend in the end to accept a slap in the face from the Sultan, they had better take it at once. It will resound less at Dulcigno than it will at Smyrna or elsewhere nearer Constantinople. His Excellency, warming up on his subject, said there is no use in making ourselves any illusions. Unless the Sultan knows that Europe is prepared to sacrifice an iron-clad or two, if necessary, he will never yield; and, unless the Powers are prepared to do this, the move to Smyrna would be another mistake.

If, however, it is a sign that the Powers are in earnest, and will follow up the threat with a blow, then the move to Smyrna would be excellent, and possibly might suffice to bring the Sultan to reason.

He fears, however, it will be impossible to get all the Powers to agree to such energetic measures, and I had specially pointed out that Her Majesty's Government suggested the move to Smyrna on the distinct understanding that all the Powers should agree.

He said that France was again showing signs of hanging back, and, moreover, he thought it might be possible she would not fancy any interference with Smyrna, in view of the neighbourhood of Syria, in which she always takes such an interest.

I said the reason Her Majesty's Government had suggested Smyrna was because that was the port the occupation of which would least interfere with European commerce, and there could be no cause for France showing any jealousy of the other Powers going there, for a temporary object, in which she also was taking part.

Baron Jomini said that he considered the present crisis was a repetition of what had taken place after the Conference of Constantinople in 1876. Then Russia alone had taken up the gauntlet thrown down by Turkey, and the result was the war on the Danube. The Sultan was now again defying Europe; Russia alone would not fight again; but what would some of the other Powers say who in the present negotiations had taken a more prominent part than she had?

I replied that his Excellency was now travelling beyond the subject immediately under consideration, and into eventualities on which I had no instructions. On one thing we were all agreed: nobody wanted a war, and it is hard if United Europe cannot find some means of bringing Turkey to reason without one.

As I was leaving his Excellency a telegram arrived from M. d'Oubril, which Baron Jomini was good enough to read to me.

The substance of it was that Baron Haymerle has assured M. d'Oubril he would do all he could for Montenegro, except move one single Austrian soldier to help her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 249.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 452. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 5, 1880.*

IN the course of the conversation reported in my previous despatch No. 442, Baron Jomini said that Russia, when she had made the demand on Turkey for the war indemnity, felt well enough that she had no chance of ever seeing the money, but it was thought it might at some future time afford a convenient screw to tighten or loosen, according to the good or bad behaviour of the Turks towards this country.

This has always been suspected, but I was somewhat surprised to hear the Russian Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs say it so plainly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 250.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 454.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 6, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a précis drawn up by Mr. Michell giving the opinions of the various organs of the Russian press on the European demonstration in the Adriatic.

As your Lordship will observe, the papers generally express very considerable irritation at the failure of united Europe to coerce the Porte into surrendering Dulcigno, and endeavour to throw the blame of the present difficulty on England.

The "Novoe Vremya" especially attacks Albania as the "cradle of the future anti-Slav Power," and declares the Sultan to be alone responsible for changing the European demonstration into a "comedy of errors."

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 251.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 455.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 6, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 451 of yesterday, I have the honour to repeat that Baron Jomini informed me to-day that having since read M. de Novikoff's abstract of the proposal made by the Sultan on the 3rd instant, he considered it totally unacceptable, and as nothing less than an act of defiance to Europe.

He had noticed especially, with dismay, the demand put forward by the Sultan for the re-establishment of Turkish garrisons in the Balkans.

The mere notion that such a step could for a moment be contemplated would, in Baron Jomini's opinion, produce an outcry among the Christian population, which it might be difficult to subdue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 252.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 456.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 6, 1880.*

I TOOK an opportunity this afternoon of mentioning to Baron Jomini some of the cases of hardship which Colonel Wilson had reported from the district of Bourgas, and, in compliance with your Lordship's instructions conveyed to me in your despatch No. 486 of the 24th ultimo, I sounded his Excellency as to the willingness of the Russian Government to join in a protest against the ill-treatment to which the Mussulman population are so often exposed.

His Excellency said that on these questions, unfortunately, we never agreed. Her Majesty's Government were continually bringing forward charges, which the Russian Government as continually denied, and nothing, in his opinion, was gained by the controversy. However, if I would give him the facts in writing, he would look into them, and M. de Giers would decide what should be done.

I pointed out that, in this case, what her Majesty's Government desired was joint pressure on the Eastern Roumelian Administration to put a stop to proceedings which were a violation of the Treaty of Berlin, and I hoped the Russian Government, as one of the Signatories, would not refuse to raise her voice in such a cause.

His Excellency said, if all that was required was united action at Philippopoli, the Russian Government would probably not refuse to join; but he must first see what were the cases of special hardship reported by Colonel Wilson.

It was finally agreed that I am to send in a note upon the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 253.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Prevesa, October* 1, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to subjoin copy of my despatch of to-day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting seventeen acts of brigandage that have been committed in this province between the 7th August last and the 24th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 253.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Prevesa, October* 1, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of your Excellency, the following acts of brigandage that have been committed between the 7th August last and the 24th ultimo, in the districts of Zagori, Janina, Lacca, Metzovo, and Prevesa.

Zagori.

1. *August* 7.—Seventy brigands made a raid on the village of Vovussa, plundered several houses, and carried off two prisoners.

2. One hundred brigands proceeded to Lestina, dined there, and left without committing any offence. Shortly afterwards, however, they sent a note to the villagers, demanding within a stipulated time the payment of 1,500 liras, and in default of which they threatened to set fire to the village.

3. *September* 11.—A band of brigands attempted to enter the village of Doprinóvo, but were repulsed by the villagers. In the fight a brigand was killed and a villager wounded.

4. *September* 19.—Eighty brigands, led by Davéli and Ghika, entered the village of Artsista, where they enjoyed themselves all day long, and during the night levied blackmail on the inhabitants to the amount of 500 liras.

5. *September* 19.—One hundred brigands, led by Kússio, Naúm, and Karéli, entered Laista, remained there thirty-six hours, and levied 300 liras in cash and 200 more in goods.

6. *September* 20.—Thirty brigands made a raid on the village of Suputzéli, murdered a certain Giovanni Vassará, burnt his house, and took 200 liras which he carried on his person. They also plundered a house and a merchant's shop.

7. *September* 21.—The band under Kússio, Naúm, and Karéli proceeded to Kitzikon, levied 100 liras, and carried off goods valued at 150 liras.

8. *September* 21 (evening).—The same band visited Papingon, levied 500 liras, and burnt down a house because the owner was not there to pay his share.

9. *September* 24.—The brigands, under Davéli and Ghika, entered Tzepélovon, extorted 130 liras from a certain Giulćka, and taking with them three hostages proceeded to the neighbouring village of Skamnéli, from where they sent a message to the inhabitants of Tzepélovon to pay within twenty-four hours 4,600 liras. They contented themselves, however, with 400 only; they also levied 200 liras on the inhabitants of Skamnéli.

10. *September* 24.—The brigands under Kússio, Naúm, and Karéli, surrounded the village of Leskovitzion, but with what result it is not known.

Janina.

11. *August* 29.—Twenty brigands sacked the house of the wealthiest inhabitant of Elephtherokóri, and burnt him with oil.

12. *September* 1.—Twelve brigands entered the village of Serviána, carried off the wealthiest man in the place, and demanded 150 liras for his release.

13. *September* 1.—Fifteen brigands proceeded to the village of Skliváni, pillaged two houses, and carried off Kitzo Stavro and Basilio Georgio.

14. *September* 21.—Twelve brigands entered the house of Papa Demitrie at Vianiti, wounded his father in the head with a yataghan, sacked the house, and carried off his daughter.

Lacca.

15. *September* 12.—Ten brigands entered the house of Papa Costa, at Kukoléssi, killed him, and carried off his son, for whose release they demand 300 liras.

Metzovo.

16. *September* 4.—Forty brigands made a raid on the village of Pétra, pillaged six houses, and murdered the Moukhtar of the village.

Prevesa.

17. *September* 11.—Kolió Prifti, and his wife, both natives of Castri (Margariti), while returning to their village from Paleoróforo, were carried off by brigands near Vlátho, and the ransom demanded is 12,000 piastres.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 254.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 607. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 2, 1880.

I READ to Baron Haymerle your Lordship's telegram No. 688, which I received this morning, asking what pressure the Austro-Hungarian Government thought could be applied if the Sultan failed to execute his promise to settle the Montenegrin frontier question on the 3rd instant, and stating that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, local measures at Dulcigno would soon become insufficient, and that nothing would be left except to open up wider issues and to exercise pressure in a more extensive field.

In making this communication, I insisted in the strongest manner that it was impossible for the Powers, after the steps already taken, now to stop short before the obstinacy of the Porte, or to withdraw their ships without having obtained anything.

His Excellency, whilst assenting to this, said that, when wider issues and pressure in a more extended field were spoken of, it was necessary that all the bearings and possible consequences of the measures to be adopted should receive beforehand the most careful consideration, and this he would promise to give to any proposal that may be made by your Lordship, with the earnest hope of finding himself in a position to concur in it.

Even if he saw his way more clearly than he does, he would prefer examining the proposals made by other Governments to making any suggestion himself.

Public opinion, as I must be aware, had already shown itself to be dissatisfied even with the naval demonstration; and it would be still more excited by the adoption of further measures of coercion upon Turkey, which might lead to additional complication.

At a moment when the Delegations are about to meet, he could not take the

responsibility of suggesting measures that the representatives of the country might disapprove.

He would, as he had said, examine those of Her Majesty's Government, with which he was as desirous as ever of being able to continue to act; but he was bound to be careful that no measure with which he might associate himself was likely to draw Austria-Hungary into a state of war with Turkey, or to lead to an explosion in Eastern Roumelia or Macedonia, which would open up a much more formidable issue than that which we were endeavouring to close at Dulcigno.

His Excellency asked if I knew anything of a proposal which he had heard spoken of for blockading the Dardanelles, which appeared to him not only an act of war, but one which would be felt at least as injuriously by the European countries as by Turkey.

I said that I had heard nothing of any such proposal.

I have, &c.
(For Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) HUGH FRASER.

No. 255.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 612. Extender.)
Vienna, October 4, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Austrian Minister at Cettinjé reports that the Prince of Montenegro has dismissed three battalions of the troops he had assembled at Sutorman, and had allowed the men to go to their homes.

The general tenour of this Report is to the effect that while the Prince deprecates further delay being granted to the Turks, he wishes to throw the task of obtaining the new territory as much as possible upon the Powers.

I have, &c.
(For Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) HUGH FRASER.

No. 256.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 614. Extender.)
Vienna, October 4, 1880.

My Lord,

BARON HAYMERLE has observed to me that he had sometimes been considering whether the Prince of Montenegro might not be satisfied by a pecuniary compensation for the positions to the east of the Lake of Scutari, now held by the Albanians, which constitute one main difficulty in the way of the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier question, and he asked me whether it might not be possible to devote to this purpose the amount of the Cyprus revenue now paid to the Porte.

I replied that I believed the Cyprus revenue to be already pledged to the creditors of Turkey, and that I doubted Her Majesty's Government considering themselves free to deal with it as he suggested.

I have, &c.
(For Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) HUGH FRASER.

No. 257.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 615. Confidential. Extender.)
Vienna, October 4, 1880.

My Lord,

I THIS morning received your Lordship's despatch No. 642, with its inclosure, to Lord Odo Russell, and at once went with it to Baron Haymerle, who had already

been made acquainted by M. Hengelmüller with the language that you had held to him.

Till he had spoken to or communicated with the Emperor, who is at Ischl, he must express himself with great reserve, but as it would be impossible for him to recommend His Majesty to sacrifice a single Austrian or Hungarian soldier for the sake of Montenegro, he did not think that the suggestion of the occupation of that Principality, or the guarantee of its frontier by the Imperial troops, could be entertained.

His Excellency's language throughout our conversation was in great part a repetition of what I have already reported to your Lordship.

He said that the other alternatives suggested in your despatch would be carefully considered if brought before him in a definite and tangible form, but, as he had before declared, he must keep in view his determination not to be drawn into a state of war with Turkey, and before he associated himself in any fresh measure he must be satisfied that it would not lead him towards it.

The possible consequences of every step must be weighed and examined from all sides.

If a demonstration before Constantinople did not make the Sultan give way, what would be the position of the Powers?

The Sultan might retire from his capital, or insurrectionary movements might break out, unsettling everything, and leaving us in a worse state than before.

With regard to the extension of the naval demonstration to places which would be more useful for the settlement of the Greek question, he could say nothing till he knew where it was proposed that the ships should go, or what they should do, but the Greeks would not be ready till the spring to occupy the new provinces, and it was not desirable to render the demonstration permanent.

He had consented to it before Dulcigno in consequence of the continued bad faith with which Turkey had acted in regard to the Montenegrin frontier; but beyond this he had never contemplated anything more than diplomatic pressure upon the Porte.

His Excellency dwelt upon the refusal of the Powers at the Congress of Berlin to undertake to enforce the observance of the Treaty, and he did not see why a duty which had been deliberately repudiated by them then should now be assumed.

As regards the reforms to be carried out in the European and Asiatic provinces, he did not believe their adoption would be made easier by measures which might throw the whole Ottoman Empire into confusion, for it was already seen what anarchy had resulted from the embarrassments produced by the last war.

He was most anxious to act, as far and as long as possible, with Her Majesty's Government; but he was very apprehensive that excessive coercion might cause greater evils than those which we were endeavouring to cure.

I assured his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government believed that the safety of Turkey could only be attained by inducing her to carry out her Treaty engagements, and by reforming some of the most glaring abuses of her Administration; that with regard to the Montenegrin frontier, she had shown a deliberate determination not to carry out her Treaty engagements, and had thus given each of the parties to it an undoubted right to proceed to any extremity against her, and that this was still more the case in respect to Russia, who, in concluding peace, has stipulated for the cession of certain territories to one of her allies in the war, but which were withheld by Turkey.

I said that when the naval demonstration was resolved upon nobody could suppose that, if it proved ineffectual, the Powers could stop there, and I was convinced that Her Majesty's Government at least would never withdraw their ships without having obtained anything.

What they might determine to do it was impossible for me to say; but some other Governments would be found ready to go with them in the measures they would propose, and it was their earnest desire that all should act together.

It appeared to me that the Austrian Government would have to decide whether it was not more to their interest to continue to go with us, even if it should be rather farther than they wished, than to withdraw from the concert, and see measures adopted that they might like still less.

This seemed to be the alternative, for I did not believe in the possibility of Her Majesty's Government being now satisfied by a continuance of mere notes and protests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 258.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 624.) *Vienna, October* 7, 1880.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a Report from the Austrian Consul at Janina which has been communicated to me by Baron Haymerle for transmission to your Lordship, in accordance with the wish expressed in your despatch No. 483 of the 29th July last.

I have, &c.
(For Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) HUGH FRASER.

Inclosure in No. 258.

Herr von Remy-Berzenkowich to Baron Haymerle.

(Translation.) *Janina, September* 17, 1880.

THE North and South Albanians are actively arming, and a combined movement of the Northern and Southern clans is to be expected, in which the Christian North Albanians are bound by oath to take part. According to the estimate of the Governor-General, the Northern clans can put 50,000, and the Southern 30,000 men into the field. The Porte has lost all power in consequence of the appointment of natives as Governors. They cannot use army, as the troops would refuse obedience and join the Albanians. As the Turkish troops are 35,000 strong, this would make a total force of about 100,000 men, with which a Greek army of 60,000 men would be unable to cope. Greece counts upon a rising of the Christians, of which there may be some prospect in Thessaly, but none in Epirus. The population of the towns will remain passive, that of the country is in part disposed to act, but a success by the Greek army would be required to induce them to rise, if they were not previously rendered harmless. Suspected persons are already being removed as hostages to the interior.

Greece is endeavouring to gain over some of the Chiefs by bribery, hitherto, however, without success, as in the case of Putsch, of Santa Quaranta. The Chiefs (Babas) have great influence, and if a few of them were gained over Albanian unity would be endangered. There is, however, small prospect of the success of this enterprise.

The Turkish authorities here state that if the Greeks crossed the frontier, and at the same time declared that they only intended to occupy the territory offered to them by the Porte in November 1879, the Porte would not oppose them.

No. 259.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 625.) *Vienna, October* 7, 1880.
My Lord,

M. BOERESCO, the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, passed through Vienna the other day on his return to Bucharest from Germany.

He entirely confirmed what Baron Haymerle had already told me of there having been no talk, either here or at Berlin, of the Royal title for Prince Charles, but arrangements had been made with reference to His Highness' successor, who is to be his nephew, the third son of the hereditary Prince of Hohenzollern.

The young Prince is twelve years old, and it is intended that he should come to reside with his uncle at Bucharest, but M. Boeresco states that he will not be called upon to conform to the Orthodox religion.

I have, &c.
(For Sir H. Elliot),
(Signed) HUGH FRASER.

No. 260.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 461. Very Confidential. Extender.) *Berlin, October* 5, 1880.
My Lord,

ON receiving your Lordship's despatch No. 632, Very Confidential, of the 1st instant, I thought it essential that Prince Bismarck should be made acquainted with its contents with as little delay as possible; so I asked Count Limburg Stirum to send it by messenger to his Highness at Friedrichruhe.

To-day Count Stirum told me that Prince Bismarck, having received Count Münster's report of his conversation with your Lordship of the 1st instant, intended to answer it forthwith and in detail by to-night's mail.

From the conversation which ensued I gathered that Prince Bismarck would explain that, in sending a German ship to take part in the naval demonstration in favour of Montenegro, he had stretched a point for the sake of supporting and promoting the European concert, but that he had every reason to doubt that public opinion in Germany would support the Government in taking part in any act of hostility against Turkey.

Germany would support the concert of the Powers morally, but would not feel justified in going the length of lending material assistance to coerce the Porte.

In regard to the local question of the Montenegrin frontier, he thought Austria would object to the employment of Russian and Italian troops, but he did not expect the Austrian Government would feel the same objection if an English intervention were proposed.

With respect to reprisals and the seizure of some place as a material guarantee, Prince Bismarck was of opinion that any such measure would probably fail to have the desired effect on the Porte, and would therefore not fulfil its object.

Count Stirum went on to say that Prince Bismarck felt honoured by your Lordship's wish to consult his opinion, but that he felt reluctant to pronounce himself on the suggested demonstration at Constantinople, the consequences of which would be incalculable.

Her Majesty's Government could, however, reckon on his cordial moral support in keeping the concert of the Powers together.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 261.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 463. Extender.) *Berlin, October* 7, 1880.
My Lord,

I TOLD Count Limburg Stirum that both the Italian and Russian Governments had agreed to the proposed occupation of Smyrna, and I asked whether his Excellency had yet received any answer to my recent communication on the subject from Prince Bismarck.

Count Stirum said that the decision of the German Government would depend on the information received from Vienna, and that, as far as he knew, the Austrian Government had not yet come to any decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 262.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 11.)

(No. 466. Secret. Extender.) *Berlin, October* 9, 1880.
My Lord,

I HAVE just been privately informed, on reliable authority, that, in reply to a question from the Emperor at Baden, Prince Bismarck has advised His Majesty to follow the example of Austria, and to decline for Germany also to take part in the proposed naval demonstration at Smyrna, which, Count Hatzfeldt telegraphs from Constantinople,

the Porte will certainly resist by force, and which, Prince Bismarck predicts to the Emperor, the Powers must fail in, as at Dulcigno, from want of landing troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 263.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received October 11.)

(Secret.)
Admiralty, October 11, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour of the 10th October, from Baosic.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 263.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.)
Baosic, October 10, 1880.

FRENCH Admiral has informed me that his Government has acquainted English Ambassador that they cannot follow England in her proposed measures.

No. 264.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.)
Baosich, October 10, 1880, 7·50 P.M.

FRENCH Admiral has informed me that his Government has informed English Ambassador that they cannot follow England in her proposed measures.

No. 265.

Sir T. Wade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.)
Peking, October 10, 1880.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 4, and one without a number, last night.

I start to-day to visit our Admiral.

No. 266.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.)
Sophia, October 10, 1880.

FRENCH Agent has received a despatch from his Government, stating that they consider the pretension of Austria with regard to the Bulgarian railway question exaggerated, and that the Xth Article of the Treaty of Berlin does not bear the restrictive character claimed by Austria.

No. 267.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11, 2·18 A.M.)

(No. 299.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, October 10, 1880, 11·50 P.M.

IT is nearly midnight. The promised note has not yet arrived.

No. 268.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11, 2·18 A.M.)

(No. 300. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, October 10, 1880, 11·59 P.M.

IF the note we expect should not be satisfactory, and the situation should remain the same as before, the Cabinet should, I think, bear in mind, with reference to suggestion of France conveyed in your Lordship's No. 663, that the Smyrna proposal has been practically divulged, and that this publicity, for which Paris is responsible, most seriously complicates the question. To retreat now would be very fatal. It would show that the Great Powers, after a formal invitation, will not proceed beyond words. I fully recognize the immense difficulties in the way of divided action, but retreat would, judged from the point of view of European influence in Turkey, be still more dangerous. I still hope that the Porte, in the face of the threatened action at Smyrna, will yield as to Dulcigno before to-morrow. I have several suggestions to make with regard to Smyrna, but reserve them till I see whether Porte sends answer. If they have learned the French decision to-day, it may, I fear, have changed their intentions.

No. 269.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11, 10 A.M.)

(No. 301.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, October 11, 1880, 9·30 A.M.

LAST telegram received from you numbered 663.

No note yet received from the Porte.

No. 270.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(Private.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, October 11, 1880.

WHEN Baron Haymerle told me that the Austrian ships would not be sent to Smyrna, I at once asked him if the Powers which sent theirs should not be regarded as the mandatories of Europe, but he said that he did not think he could give a mandate for a measure in which he did not associate himself.

He did not, however, speak very determinedly, and I will sound him again.

No. 271.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 172.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, October 11, 1880.

MR. GREEN'S No. 47.

Baron Haymerle can hardly believe the Austrian Minister at Cettinjé to have advised the Prince of Montenegro to reduce his forces on the Albanian frontier, for he has himself never hinted at the expediency of such a proceeding, and was not pleased when he learnt a week ago that the Prince had dismissed some battalions.

No. 272.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 122.)
(Telegraphic.)
Tehran, October 11, 1880.

THE Shah sent for me to-day, and spoke about Kurdish irruption into Aderbijan. He requested me to address an earnest appeal to Her Majesty's Government, to the effect that they, as one of Mediating Powers, would, through Her Majesty's Ambassador, strongly impress upon the Porte the urgent necessity of their co-operating with Persia, by threatening Sheikh Obeidullah by military demonstration or otherwise, so as to

make him recall his son with his followers from Persian territory, and desist from his present hostile intentions. His Majesty also wished the Porte to take military measures on frontier, in order to prevent Kurds, when attacked by Persian troops, from taking refuge on Turkish territory.

His Majesty stated that reinforcements which are being sent would not be on the spot for another month, and that Russia might take advantage of this delay to interfere, pleading as an excuse safety and interests of her subjects in Aderbijan.

There are now three regiments in Aderbijan, and five more called out; the reinforcements being sent from the capital and other places amount to about 10,000 men, and include one of the new regiments, and one battery with rifled guns, instructed by Austrians, with four Austrian officers, and two batteries of the old Persian artillery. The Persian Government estimate rebellion of Kurds at about 7,000 men.

The ex-Minister for Foreign Affairs has been appointed to Tabreez, as responsible Administrator of the province under the Heir Apparent.

(Sent to Constantinople and India.)

No. 273.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 11.)

(No. 195.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 11, 1880, 3:30 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 514 received by post last night.

In view of attitude since taken by France, Austria, and Germany respecting proposed Smyrna demonstration, am I still to communicate to Russian Government the draft of instructions to British Admiral, and ask Russia to adopt it?

No. 274.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 728.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1880, 3:30 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, No. 726:—

Inquire, after the proof given by the Turkish engagement of Saturday that the Porte is ready to yield to real concert, whether, if Turkey should insult the Powers by breaking that engagement, Austria would reconsider her determination, and join with England and the other consenting Powers.

M. Challemel-Lacour is of opinion that the French Government would not separate themselves from the Powers as regards the occupation of Smyrna if all agree, although they would not commit themselves to the ulterior steps which might arise from it.

In answer to the same question which I have put above, M. Lacour anticipates that the answer of his Government will be that if the engagement on Saturday was made *bond fide*, it is a proof of the efficiency of concerted action. If it was a comedy to gain time, it is an insult to Europe.

No. 275.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 720.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1880, 6:30 P.M.

IN answer to your private telegram of to-day, pray ask the question at once officially, unless you have received news of the cession of Dulcigno.

No. 276.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 667.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1880, 4:30 P.M.

ON Saturday Tissot told Hatzfeldt that he had the most urgent orders from Paris to induce the Sultan to yield.

He applied to the German to help him; the latter answered that he could take no initiative, but would continue to advise yielding as he had done all along. Aide-de-camp of the Sultan subsequently called on Hatzfeldt on the part of his master to know whether it was true he was about to depart? Hatzfeldt answered that he could only advise the Sultan to yield to Europe.

No. 277.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 668?.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1880.

CABINET was postponed in consequence of expected communication from the Porte.

If you do not receive it by this evening, would it not be desirable that you should let it be known to the Porte that this delay, after the announcement made to you and your colleagues, can only be regarded as greatly aggravating the situation in which the Sultan has already placed himself towards the Powers?

No. 278.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 794.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1880, 7·45 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 195 of to-day.

You had better communicate draft instructions for Admiral to Russian Government in the usual course.

No. 279.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 583. Extender.)
Foreign Office, October 11, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have determined to postpone the Cabinet Council which was fixed for to-day until the reply of the Sublime Porte respecting the cession of Dulcigno shall have been received. If, however, you do not receive the answer by this evening, they would suggest to your Excellency whether it would not be advisable that you should inform the Porte that this delay, after the announcement made to you and your colleague, can only be regarded by Her Majesty's Government as greatly aggravating the situation in which the Sultan has placed himself towards the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 280.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 671. Extender.)
Foreign Office, October 11, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE requested your Excellency by telegraph to call the attention of the Austrian Government to the promise given by the Porte on Saturday that Dulcigno should be surrendered, as a proof that the Turkish Government are ready to yield to really concerted pressure, and to ask whether, if the Porte should insult the Powers by breaking this fresh engagement, the Austrian Government would reconsider their determination and join with England and the other consenting Powers in sending vessels-of-war for the occupation of Smyrna.

Your Excellency will find in the inclosed copy of a despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris the substance of the statements made to me by the French Ambassador in regard to the views of his Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 281.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 678. Extender.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1880.

Sir,

IN answer to your private telegram of yesterday, I have to request that, unless news has reached you of the cession of Dulcigno, your Excellency will ask Baron Haymerle at once and officially whether Austria would regard the Powers sending ships to Smyrna as mandatories of Europe.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 282.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 518.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 179 of the 25th ultimo, recording a conversation you have had with Baron Jomini relative to the reply of the Porte to the Ambassadors' Collective Note of the 15th September respecting the Montenegrin frontier question, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language you held to his Excellency on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 283.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1349 A.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1880.

My Lord,

THE French Ambassador had an interview with Mr. Gladstone to-day, at the latter portion of which I was also present.

The conversation turned, in the first instance, upon the promise of the surrender of Dulcigno which had been made by the Porte on Saturday, the doubt cast upon it by the subsequent delay in the presentation of an official note, and the circumstances to which it seemed probable that that delay was to be ascribed.

Mr. Gladstone observed that it was probable that the answer of the French Government, refusing to agree to our proposal respecting Smyrna, had become known at Constantinople after the promise of surrender had been made, and had done much mischief.

To this M. Challemel-Lacour replied that there had been no answer on the part of the French Government definitively refusing to join in the proposed course of action, and that he had no instruction to make a communication to Her Majesty's Government of that nature. His Excellency seemed to be of opinion that the French Government would be unwilling to separate themselves from the other Powers as regards the occupation of Smyrna, if all the Powers were agreed upon that measure, although they could not commit themselves to the ulterior steps which might arise from it.

Mr. Gladstone expressed to M. Challemel-Lacour his conviction that the proposed measure was sufficient to ensure success as regards the matter in hand, and explained that, even if it should turn out otherwise, there were ulterior measures between that and war, such as the prevention of naval action on the part of Turkey against Greece, &c.

I observed to his Excellency that the promise made by the Porte on Saturday was a proof that Turkey was ready to yield to real pressure, and I asked whether, if the Turkish Government should insult the Powers by breaking this new engagement, the French Cabinet would reconsider their determination, and join with England and the other consenting Powers in the occupation of Dulcigno.

M. Challemel-Lacour thought that his Government would admit that, if the engagement made on Saturday was made *bonâ fide*, it was a proof of the efficiency of concerted action, and he did not deny that, if it was a comedy to gain time, it constituted an insult to Europe.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 284.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1350 A.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1880.

My Lord,

THE French Ambassador called upon me to-day and read to me a portion of a letter from M. St. Hilaire, containing a message to Mr. Gladstone. M. St. Hilaire stated how desirous the French Government were to act in concert with England and the other Powers, but added that they objected to embark in any enterprise which might lead to further steps calculated to embroil us in war with Turkey and bring that Empire possibly to sudden ruin, leading to great European difficulties. He went on to ask what Mr. Gladstone's views were.

I told M. Challemel-Lacour that I knew my own mind and that of Mr. Gladstone, but that I should like to know what Mr. Gladstone's answer had been.

His Excellency said that the conversation had been interrupted and diverted to other subjects, and that in fact Mr. Gladstone had given no answer.

I had no hesitation in saying for Mr. Gladstone and myself that we did not desire to see the destruction of the Ottoman Empire; that we wished to see it strengthened by the adoption of the measures which were absolutely necessary for its safety; that we were opposed to war, but that we thought some material pressure could alone induce Turkey to do what was needful. The efficacy of that pressure would depend upon the extent to which it had the appearance of proceeding from all the Powers. I said that the proposed plan with regard to Smyrna would have in this respect an advantage over the naval demonstration, which had in its moral effect undoubtedly been much injured by the delays that had accompanied it, and the successive limitations that had been placed upon its action. The position at Smyrna would be far from an impotent one, as the Powers would be in possession of one of the most important custom-houses of the Ottoman Empire.

I remarked, in conclusion, that although M. Challemel-Lacour declined to state what was the policy of the French Government excepting that they were desirous to avoid war, yet it was clearly a policy of perfect inaction, for pressure by diplomatic despatches was evidently no longer available. I was afraid that a system by which we were to let things take their own course and make the Porte believe that it was entirely free from the influence of Europe would lead to most disastrous consequences.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 285.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1351 A.) *Foreign Office, October* 11, 1880.

My Lord,

THE instructions sent to M. Challemel-Lacour in regard to the proposed occupation of Smyrna would seem to have differed somewhat from the language used to your Excellency by M. St. Hilaire, as reported in your despatch No. 962 of the 8th instant, as you will perceive from my despatch No. 1349A of this day that M. Challemel-Lacour stated both to Mr. Gladstone and to me that France was not to be regarded as having definitively refused the proposal.

It may not, however, now be necessary to take any further notice of this.

I mentioned at the time that his Excellency's statement seemed somewhat at variance with the account we had received of the language held by the French Admiral at Cattaro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 286.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 426. Confidential.) *Therapia, October* 4, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE read with great interest the memorandum of Mr. Mulet, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 508, Confidential, of the 23rd ultimo, stating the views held by

the Khedive of Egypt and the Pashas at Cairo, as to the present situation at Constantinople, and the character and influence of the Sultan.

It appears to me that these views are entirely correct, and that they afford a true explanation of much that is passing here. The influence of the personal fears of the Sultan on the march of events cannot be overrated, and I have repeatedly pointed out to your Lordship that the personal apprehension of consequences dangerous to himself from concessions to Europe, may outweigh the fear of the disasters likely to accrue to his Empire from a policy of resistance.

The description given by Mr. Malet of the degree to which His Majesty is addicted to "astrologers," and men of that stamp, is confirmed by much that I have heard here.

Mr. Malet describes how occasionally business is arrested in all the Departments of Government by the Sultan's refusal to sign papers. I have heard curious facts with regard to this point. At one time, I understand, as many as 450 mazbatas, or Ministerial decisions, were at the Palace awaiting signature.

I need not repeat to your Lordship how much the difficulties of the present state of things is aggravated by the character of His Majesty, and the system which he has introduced.

The Ministers have been at Yildiz Kiosk, the Sultan's Palace, almost consecutively for a fortnight, and are now seldom to be found at the Porte. Even the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs is now always at the Palace. As I have had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship, general business is almost paralysed. Baker Pasha, who has, at last, been appointed to a position where, as the head of the gendarmerie, he would have real executive powers, has told me that he cannot find any Minister. None attend at their offices, and no letters are answered.

I presume this condition of affairs will not last much longer, but every week that it continues must increase the deadlock in the provinces, where nothing is left to the discretion of the Governors, whilst they cannot get their business expedited at headquarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 287.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 432.)
My Lord,

Therapia, October 5, 1880.

I HAVE telegraphed to your Lordship so fully with regard to what has been passing here since the departure of the last messenger, that it would be of little use to trouble your Lordship with a despatch recounting the results of the various meetings which the Ambassadors have held, especially as any interest which might have attached to them is greatly diminished by the fact that a new situation is created by the note of the Porte just received.

The main features of the last few days, as far as Constantinople is concerned, have been the Councils of Ministers held at the Palace, on the one hand to concoct a final and conclusive answer to the Powers, and, on the other hand, the attempts of the Austrian Ambassador to succeed in the hopeless task of bringing the Turkish authorities to reason by a modification in our tone towards them.

Your Lordship is aware how the one effort of the Turks has lately been to rid themselves of the chance of a naval demonstration, both for the present and for the future. They recognize that at last their system of interminable delays and delusive promises must be brought to a close, and they have apparently thought, especially since the Prince of Montenegro refused to march, that their best chance of avoiding the dreaded eventuality was to stand firm, and to throw on the Powers the responsibilities and the risks of the confusion and the dangers which might ensue.

Your Lordship will have observed that practically they have made no concession whatever since the issue of the Circular telegram which marked the commencement of their new policy. On the contrary, they have ceased to speak of the surrender ("remise") of Dulcigno, and, even if all their conditions are accepted, they now state that they will only "evacuate," and will not be responsible for any disorders which may ensue. This is precisely the point which they contended for in the case of the April Convention. They will retire, but leave the warlike inhabitants of the neighbourhood free to resist the transfer of territory if they choose.

It is useless to speculate whether, at any period of the negotiations, the Porte was sincere in stating that they had resolved to surrender Dulcigno peaceably. Your Lordship will remember that, in a conversation I had with Abédine Pasha a good many weeks ago, he asked me whether the Powers would not be satisfied with a simple cession, without the Porte being called upon to execute and guarantee the cession itself; and how I informed him, in precise language, that the Powers would expect the Montenegrins to be actually put into possession of the town and district. Sometimes the Porte has given hopes that it would loyally carry out this latter view, but there is now much warrant for the belief that, from first to last, there was a settled determination to thwart the cession of the territory which formed the subject of the third alternative, just as the execution of the Gusinjé-Plava Arrangement and that of the April Convention had been successfully thwarted.

The Circular telegram was issued when delay seemed no longer possible. It was followed by the note sent to the Ambassadors, embodying much the same declarations, amongst which the demand for the abandonment of "the principle" of naval demonstrations was the most prominent feature.

This demand was peremptorily rejected by the Ambassadors, in their collective note of the 26th ultimo. The Sultan then sent the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs to plead for the withdrawal of this note. When this was refused, he conveyed the expression of his hope that the note might be considered as in suspense, and he caused a most emphatic statement to be made to the Ambassadors that, by the 3rd October, that was in five days from the date of his announcement, a settlement ("un réglement") of all pending questions relating to the Treaty of Berlin should be made satisfactory to the Powers. He hoped, at the same time, that the naval demonstration would not take place.

The Ambassadors "took note" of these promises, but no assurance was given as to the naval demonstration. Indeed, the term assigned by the Sultan for the announcement of his final decision had nearly expired before instructions had reached some of the Ambassadors to reply in any way to the announcement made in the name of the Sultan.

The Ministers, meanwhile, have been continually in Council at the Palace elaborating the document which had been promised to us; but I understand that the Sultan was never present at their deliberations, though continually sending them messages, and that he scarcely saw any of the Ministers.

He is represented as having been extremely irritable, and I am told that some of the Ministers only signed the final mazbata, or Ministerial minute, under the direct command of His Majesty.

His Majesty has, by all accounts, interfered to so serious an extent in every phase and detail of these negotiations, and has exercised such pressure on the Council of Ministers, that he has certainly incurred that moral responsibility to which your Lordship has on several occasions instructed me to call the attention of His Majesty.

The last note, of which I sent your Lordship a copy in a separate despatch, requires little comment at my hands. It is uncompromising in every respect. It maintains all the demands previously made which had been categorically rejected. With regard to Dulcigno, I have already explained that it aggravates the case. With regard to Greece, the frontier-line traced seems largely to increase the demand to retain territory awarded to Greece by the Berlin Conference. As compared with the exceptions made in the last note, and with regard to Armenia, with the exception of a certain right of nomination given to the Governors-General with regard to officials, there is nothing promised beyond what was explained to be thoroughly inadequate in our collective note of the 7th ultimo.

The value of the proposals as to the settlement of the public debt may be judged by the significant phrase that the interference of the Powers is to be excluded, and by the offer to substitute a new bank and a new organization for the present administration of the Indirect Contributions. This proposal is apparently intended to please those bondholders who objected most strongly to the consignment of their contributions in November last to a syndicate of bankers who had made fresh advances to the Porte. Now, the Porte appears ready to commit a breach of faith in the opposite direction. I will not fail to write to your Lordship more fully on this special point when I have had more time to examine this portion of the note.

I am doubtful how to interpret the passage about the application of the new Organic Statute to the European provinces of Turkey. Literally the note would seem to state that "the document" will be applied ("sera appliqué"), but so much is said as to the sovereign rights of the Porte as the basis of the document, that the impression is con-

veyed that it will only be applied to such an extent as may be compatible with the interpretation put by the Porte upon those rights.

On the whole, the note seems even more uncompromising than could have been expected, and I presume it will be considered as finally closing the recent negotiations.

I have alluded to the attempts which the Austrian Ambassador, under instructions from his Government, wished us to make during the last week to influence the Sultan in a conciliatory direction. We were most anxious to meet the views of our colleague as far as possible, but we all thought it absolutely useless to press again during the week, as Baron Calice was instructed to do, if his colleagues agreed with him, for the cession of Dulcigno. The Porte had attached unacceptable conditions to the surrender, and it would have been futile to press for it again, while the Sultan was avowedly considering a final answer on the whole question.

Nor did we think it wise to offer to delay the naval demonstration till the 3rd October as a kind of concession. It was perfectly well known to the Porte that the Prince of Montenegro had refused to march, so that the concession would have been hollow, and might even have been deemed ironical. Baron Calice was ultimately satisfied with a very short declaration which evaded the difficulty, and to which we did not object, though we thought it of no value.

I beg to inclose a copy.

As I informed your Lordship by telegraph, there was apparently an anxiety on the part of Baron Calice to introduce an allusion to the cession of Dulcigno in our Declaration, taking note of the promises of the Sultan, in order to frustrate any attempt on the part of the Porte to propose some new plan instead, which might be disagreeable to Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 287.

Pro-memorid.

LES Ambassadeurs ont fait part à leurs Gouvernements de la communication verbale qui leur a été faite le 28 Septembre par Artin Effendi, au nom de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Ils prennent acte de la résolution affirmée par Sa Majesté, de régler définitivement les questions pendantes dans un bref délai, c'est-à-dire jusqu'au Dimanche, 3 Octobre, et expriment la ferme confiance que ce règlement comprendra la remise immédiate de Dulcigno et l'envoi d'instructions conformes à Véli Riza Pacha.

Le 1er Octobre, 1880.

No. 288.

Sir H Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 623.)
Vienna, October 6, 1880.

My Lord,

I IMMEDIATELY forwarded to Baron Haymerle the substance of your Lordship's telegram proposing that the allied fleets should be transferred from the Adriatic to Smyrna, which port should be held as a material guarantee, and I requested to be informed as soon as possible of the view taken of the proposal by the Austro-Hungarian Government.

I have not since been able to see his Excellency, but till he had had time to communicate with the Emperor, I should not have learnt much from him.

I have been asked whether your Lordship, when speaking of holding the port of Smyrna, alluded to the harbour alone, or to the town itself, and I replied that I took it for granted that what was intended was to hold the place itself, with the control of the custom-house, but I should be glad to be informed if I rightly understood the proposal.

Count Robelant, the Italian Ambassador, has already communicated to the Austro-Hungarian Government the concurrence of his Government in the measure.

As far as I can ascertain, Baron Haymerle will not be disposed to treat the Montenegrin, Greek, and Armenian questions as one, and will wish any demonstration to be confined to the original object for which it was concerted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 289.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 629. Extender.)
Vienna, October 8, 1880.

My Lord,

BARON HAYMERLE asked me to call upon him yesterday, that he might inform me of the decision of the Austro-Hungarian Government upon the question of transferring the allied fleets to Smyrna, but I happened to be too unwell to be able to go to him, or to transact any business, and a day was thus unavoidably lost in conveying to your Lordship the information for which I was aware that you must be impatient.

I have informed your Lordship by telegraph that his Excellency called upon me this morning, and said that, after weighing with great care all the circumstances of the case, he felt obliged to decline to allow the Imperial ships to take part in the proposed measure. He fully shared your Lordship's appreciation of the Turkish note, and, in considering that it offered no basis for arrangement or negotiation, and therefore, for Austria-Hungary, he gives the concurrence in the proposed measure which your Lordship has asked for, on the understanding that it is to be conducted without prejudice to their commercial and maritime interests, and under the conditions of the Self-denying Protocol.

He further suggested that, until Dulcigno is given up, a portion of the Custom-house revenue of Smyrna should be made over to the Prince of Montenegro to compensate him for the cost of keeping up his army, which is entailed upon him by the refusal of the Porte to cede the district.

Baron Haymerle is most anxious that it should not be supposed that because he feels obliged to decline taking an active part in this measure he is separating himself from Her Majesty's Government, but the Imperial Government having always declared that they must avoid being drawn into a state of war, felt obliged to weigh all the contingencies that might arise out of such a step as that now under discussion, even if it should be conducted with the utmost moderation and prudence.

It was, he said, impossible to foresee for certain what the Turks might do; and if they opposed the most trifling resistance, it must be overcome by an act of war. If a shot was fired at an Austrian vessel, the ship must either retire or return it, and neither alternative would suit the Imperial Government, which prefers, therefore, not to be exposed to it.

In expressing his concurrence in the measure, while declining to associate Austrian ships in it, Baron Haymerle believes that he remains within the compass of your Lordship's meaning in proposing the demonstration before Dulcigno, when it was intimated that every Government should be left the faculty of sending their ships or not; and he quoted several passages from the communications exchanged at that time as evidence that what was then asked for was the concurrence, but not necessarily the participation, of all.

I said that I greatly regretted to learn the decision he had just announced, for it must necessarily diminish the probability that the presence of the fleets at Smyrna would produce upon the Sultan the effect that was hoped from it; the absence of the Austrian ships would certainly in some quarters be industriously represented as the beginning of a disagreement among the Powers, and the belief, however untrue, could not fail to have an injurious effect upon the object that all have in view.

I urged him at least to go the length of allowing the Austrian flag to be shown in some small vessel accompanying the larger ships, and which would not be exposed to the risk of being engaged in any conflict, but he declined to entertain the suggestion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 290.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 631.)
My Lord,

Vienna, October 9, 1880.

I MENTIONED to Baron Haymerle that Mr. Corbett, by his telegram to your Lordship of the 4th instant, had reported M. Tricoupis to have said that he perceived the intention of the Porte to be to exhaust Greece by obliging her to keep up a large army through the winter, but that it would be impossible, as soon as the army was prepared, to restrain the Greeks from taking the offensive, and attempting to obtain possession of Epirus and Thessaly by force.

His Excellency considered this language to deserve very little attention, for it was known that the Greek army, as the King had himself declared, would require the whole winter before it could be brought into a condition to attempt any important operation, and all the reports from Greece showed the enthusiasm and impatience of which M. Tricoupis speaks to be very imaginary.

Baron Haymerle stated that he had been taking measures for ascertaining the disposition of the populations in Epirus and Thessaly. In the latter province the people were Greek in their feeling, but they had a great dread of being called upon to furnish their contingents to the Greek army, and of losing the exemption from military service which they enjoy under the Porte; and this, coupled with their belief of the inability of any Hellenic force to cope successfully with the regular Turkish army, would, it is believed, prevent them from giving any material assistance to their countrymen against the latter.

By the accounts received from Epirus, an extract from which I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 634,* Baron Haymerle is assured that the Porte retains for the moment scarcely a vestige of authority over the clans, who are the real masters of the country, and he appears therefore not to think it desirable that any immediate pressure should be put upon the Turkish Government for the settlement of the Greek Frontier question.

At the same time his Excellency, when speaking upon this subject, never fails to add that the territories assigned by the Powers to Greece must be obtained for her, though prolonged negotiation and pressure may possibly be required before it is accomplished.

The opinion of the Russian Chargé d'Affaires at Athens, reported by Mr. Plunkett, that the Greeks seem to think this a good moment to act, and that if they are defeated the Powers cannot help coming to their assistance, agrees very closely with the language that has lately been held to me in a confidential conversation by Prince Ypsilanti, the Hellenic Envoy at this Court.

It was in some respects extremely curious, for he began by saying that he was born in Russia, had long lived there, was a Russian as well as a Greek subject, and had had an unmixed veneration for the Emperor, but he could not help seeing that the policy of Russia towards Turkey was entirely detrimental to the interests of Greece, with which he believed those of England to be closely united. He had been one of those who thought that when the Russo-Turkish war broke out Greece ought at all risks to take part in it, and thus secure for herself as a belligerent the natural benefits to be got from the conditions imposed upon the defeated party.

Greece now stood in a much less advantageous position than if that course had been followed, for, however grateful he might feel as a Greek for the award that the Powers had made to his country at Berlin, he could not but see that, being made in favour of one who had continued at peace with Turkey, it was, in fact, a spoliation (the words were his) to which it would be difficult for the Porte to consent.

In his opinion, Greece should still try to escape from the false position she had created for herself by her timidity, by striking a blow for the acquisition of the provinces assigned to her, and when Greek blood had once been shed in the cause its ultimate success was assured, whatever the first issue of the attempt might be.

Though Prince Ypsilanti's remarks were of an entirely personal and private character, their similarity with what the Russian Chargé d'Affaires has represented as those prevailing at Athens induces me to report them confidentially to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

* Qy. No. 629.

No. 291.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 962.)
My Lord,

Paris, October 8, 1880.

I HAD yesterday a long conversation with M. Jules Ferry, the President of the Council, on the subject of the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that the allied squadrons should be transferred to Smyrna.

M. Jules Ferry said that he should not be able to express a positive opinion on the part of the French Government until after a Council of Ministers, which was to be held on the following morning. It was, however, sufficiently clear that M. Ferry's own sentiments were adverse to the proposal.

He admitted the advantages of the Smyrna plan, and did not profess to be able to suggest any other plan so likely to bring the Porte to reason without producing inconvenient consequences.

He did not, he said, forget that for a long time past the Great Powers had, in cases of necessity, been in the habit of adopting towards the Porte measures, such as the occupation of portions of the territory, which were not in strict conformity with the rules observed by great civilized Powers in their dealings with each other.

He spoke, as M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire had done, of the great anxiety of the French Government to close, as speedily as possible, all the questions now open under the Treaty of Berlin; and he seemed to be impressed by the representation I made, that to break up the European concert now would be to keep these questions open, with all their inconveniences and all their perils, for an indefinite time.

But M. Jules Ferry constantly reverted to the arguments that, to take part in the measure proposed by Her Majesty's Government would be going so near war as to be inadmissible under the present French Constitution; and that anything like an approach towards war was viewed with the utmost repugnance by all parties in France, and would cause the Ministry to be called very severely to account by the Chambers when they met next month.

This afternoon I had an interview with M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire. He told me that the Cabinet had not come to any decision this morning, but that the question would be considered again in a Council to be held to-morrow afternoon.

I went over with him very nearly the same ground which I had gone over the day before with M. Jules Ferry, and, with regard to the Constitutional objection, I called his attention to the practice of the United States of America, under a very similar Constitutional provision.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire spoke as strongly as M. Jules Ferry had done of the impossibility of the Government's taking any step even indirectly tending towards war, in the present state of feeling in the country and the Chambers.

I confess that these conversations with the French Ministers leave me little or no hope that the decision of the Council of Ministers to-morrow will be favourable.

It is just possible that, if all the other Powers fully accept the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, France may hesitate to stand aloof by herself. It is probable that, before giving any answer at all, the French Government will wait for the answers of Austria-Hungary and Germany; but if it do give an answer before those Powers have declared themselves, there can, I fear, be no doubt that it will be an answer in the negative.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 292.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 12.)

(No. 965.)
My Lord,

Paris, October 9, 1880.

WITH your despatch No. 1385 of the day before yesterday, your Lordship did me the honour to send me a draft of instructions for the Commander of the allied squadrons, in case of the transfer of those squadrons from the Adriatic to Smyrna.

The French Government having rejected the proposal that the squadrons should be thus transferred, I do not purpose to communicate these draft instructions to them unless I shall receive further directions from your Lordship to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 293.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received October* 12.)

Admiralty, October 9, 1880.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, extracts from a letter of Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, dated the 2nd instant, at Gravosa, describing the state of affairs, and announcing his purpose of proceeding to Cattaro, with the intention of remaining there for a few days, as being more convenient for purposes of communication than the anchorage in Teodo Bay.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 293.

Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Gravosa, October 2, 1880.

(Extract.)

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, and in continuation of my letter of the 18th ultimo, that the united fleet has remained at this anchorage since that date, and that nothing has occurred of particular interest further than what I have specially reported to their Lordships in separate despatches.

My intention to move the united fleet to Cattaro, and my reasons for doing so, were reported to their Lordships in my letter of the 1st instant.

As the Austrian vessels do not proceed direct to Cattaro, in consequence of Admiral Eberan's desire to exercise the newly-commissioned ships at target-practice, I have considered it more expedient to allow each nation's vessel to proceed independently, and as convenient, for had I arranged that the fleet should move in company, the absence of the Austrian vessels might have given rise to a false impression, and have led to the supposition that a want of harmony of action existed.

The "Téméraire" left this morning for Teodo Bay, and the "Alexandria" will proceed there to-morrow. I shift my flag to the "Helicon," and remain here until daylight on Monday, so as to receive any telegrams addressed to me at Gravosa without delay.

On Monday I shall go to Cattaro, where I shall remain for a few days, as it will be more convenient for the receipt and despatch of telegrams, and for personal communication, as necessary, with Her Majesty's Consul-General at Cettinjé, to be at Cattaro than at the anchorage in Teodo Bay.

The Russian torpedo vessel "Batoum" arrived from Fiume on the 19th ultimo, and sailed on the 22nd for the Black Sea.

On the 19th the Austrian Military Commander of the province, Lieutenant-General Eugène von Klimbourg, visited the squadron, and received the usual salutes from the several ships.

The 21st ultimo being the fête day of His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Constantine of Russia, the fleet dressed, and the saluting ships fired a Royal salute in honour of the occasion.

On the 30th the Russian corvette "Jemtchoug" sailed for Cattaro, and the frigate "Svetlaud" left this morning for the same destination.

No. 294.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received October* 12.)

Admiralty, October 12, 1880.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of Earl Granville, that the following telegram No. 35 has been sent to Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour this day:—

"Turkish note agrees to cede Dulcigno amicably; a Convention required. They hope naval demonstration will be unnecessary. Wait for further instructions."

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 295.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 303.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 11, 1880, 11·30 P.M.

WE hear positively that we are to receive the note relating to the cession of Dulcigno, but that it will not be in accord with the declaration made to me on Saturday by the Minister for Foreign Affairs. Prime Minister threw certain doubts this afternoon on its having been a thoroughly official communication.

A Havas telegram, dated from Paris, is published here this afternoon, stating that Austria, Germany, and France have accepted English proposals, and this news has produced a very decided effect on the Sultan and some of his Ministers. A firm front on the part of the Powers at the present moment would probably decide the question in favour of concession.

Even those who most warmly take the part of the Turks admit that nothing but a strong attitude on the part of the Powers can save Turkey from committing acts of folly most ruinous to its interests.

It is rumoured now that the Porte will only announce evacuation, not a satisfactory cession, and that the new note will not contain much more than the last proposals somewhat disguised.

No. 296.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 12, 10·34 A.M.)

(No. 304.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 12, 1880, 9 A.M.

NOTE received. It states: The Porte, wishing to give a new proof of its loyalty and good-will, declares that it will immediately give categorical instructions to the local authorities for the cession of this locality to the Montenegrin authorities by pacific means.

A Convention will be necessary ("devra intervenir") to settle the conditions of this cession.

The Ottoman Government, which makes this concession only with the object of avoiding the naval demonstration, hopes that by this measure the proposed demonstration will be completely set on one side.

No. 297.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 12, 2·7 P.M.)

(No. 305.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 12, 1880, 12 *noon.*

WITH reference to Turkish note, your Lordship will observe that Dulcigno, not the district of Dulcigno, is spoken of. The phrase "pacific means" shows that the Albanians, if they choose, may still give trouble.

But the most important point is the Convention. I have seen Italian and French Ambassadors. We propose to German Ambassador to send to inquire immediately what kind of Convention is really meant, presuming that the Porte means a document to be drawn up locally for the military and other conditions of material transfer. The best mode will probably be an arrangement for immediate transfer, to be agreed on by the Turkish and Montenegrin authorities locally, with or without the intervention of Consuls as may be found necessary, and afterwards an International Convention drawn up here. I presume Porte would object to the Convention being negotiated by the Admiral, as his action would recall the naval demonstration, which the Porte wants to avoid.

No. 298.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 12.)

(No. 306.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 12, 1880

THE Admiralty sent a telegram *en clair* to the Captain of "Antelope," refusing officer's leave, and speaking of her being prepared for sea immediately.

The result of this coming *en clair* was that it was divulged by telegraph authorities, and known on shore at once, and the probable sudden departure of the Ambassador discussed.

No. 299.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 12, 11·10 P.M.)

(No. 307.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 12, 1880, 8·28 P.M.

RUSSIAN Ambassador expressed to me great dissatisfaction with the Turkish note. Cession, he says, is nothing. It must be a regular handing over ("remise"). He had quite understood this from the Minister for Foreign Affairs' language to him. He says that no immediate cession is promised, but only immediate orders. He objects to the paragraph about a Convention, and considers the whole step illusory. There is great force in much of this, but I am bound to add confidentially that the Russian Ambassador has never given the impression of any anxiety to see the question settled without a naval demonstration. It seems important to remember this in weighing the arguments of Russia. Any one, judging from appearances alone and in an unfriendly spirit, might even have inferred that the naval demonstration was regarded by Russia rather as an end than as a means.

No. 300.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880.

INFORM Admiral and Mr. Green that the following telegram has been received from Mr. Goschen:—

[See No. 296.]

The Admiral is requested to communicate this intelligence to the Prince of Montenegro with reference to the letter received from him on the 27th ultimo, and to suggest that no time should be lost in authorizing his Agent at Constantinople to agree with the Ambassadors on the conditions of the Convention.

No. 301.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 731.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880, 2 P.M.

FOR the sake of expedition, ask the Austrian Government to favour us with their opinion of the Turkish note as soon as it reaches them.

No. 302.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 735. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880, 6 P.M.

ASK the Austrian Government to tell their Agent to advise the Prince of Montenegro strongly not to make difficulties about the conditions of the Convention, as he is little likely to receive any support should he do so.

No. 303.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.**

(No. 796.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880, 2·30 P.M.

INFORM the Government to which you are accredited at once of the contents of the following telegram received this morning from Mr. Goschen. Call attention especially to the passage in which he says that a firm front would decide the question in favour of concession:—

[See No. 295.]

No. 304.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.†

(No. 797.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880, 6 P.M.

EXPRESS satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the reports which they have received from Admiral Seymour, describing the friendly and cordial feeling with which the Commander of the naval force of the Government to which you are accredited has co-operated with him in making arrangements for the naval demonstration at Dulcigno.

These preparations have had their full though indirect effect in bringing about a conclusion which, it is hoped, will make any further demonstration of force there unnecessary.

Her Majesty's Government propose to send orders to the Admiral to wait for further instructions unless the necessity should arise, contrary to their expectation, for him to act upon those of the 8th September which he previously received.

No. 305.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.‡

(No. 798.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880, 6·10 P.M.

IN view of the critical situation at Constantinople and temperament of the Sultan, Her Majesty's Government trust that the Powers will concur with them that the fleets should be retained at Cattaro until further orders.

No. 306.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 670.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880, 6 P.M.

HER Majesty's Government have received with satisfaction your telegram No. 304 of to-day, and thank you cordially for your exertions in bringing about this solution.

They trust that no time will be lost in concluding the Convention.

No. 307.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 115. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880, 6 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram to Sir H. Elliot, repeated to you to-day, give the same advice to the Prince.

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* Also to Lord Lyons (No. 555), Mr. Macdonell (No. 722), Lord Odo Russell (No. 679), and Sir H. Elliot (No. 732).

† Also to Lord Lyons (No. 556), Mr. Macdonell (No. 723), Sir H. Elliot (No. 733), and Lord Odo Russell (No. 680).

‡ Also to Lord Lyons (No. 557), Mr. Macdonell (No. 724), Sir H. Elliot (No. 734), and Lord Odo Russell (No. 681).

No. 308.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 12, 8·40 P.M.)

(No. 173.) *Vienna, October* 12, 1880, 7·40 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

EVEN if the Porte breaks the Saturday engagement, Austrian Government will not join in sending ships to Smyrna.

Public opinion, they say, would not permit them to incur the risk of the contingencies that might arise out of it.

I strongly urged Baron Haymerle to consent that the Powers willing to send their ships should do so as the mandatories of Europe, but he would not agree to it, and asked how he could give to others a mandate that he would not entrust to one of the Imperial Commanders.

I said that by doing so he would avoid the risk which he dreaded of being drawn into the further steps that the others might think necessary, but I produced no impression.

He thinks that by the course he is pursuing in formally accepting the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, though without taking an active part in the measure himself, he keeps the European concert intact.

He hopes to be able to give the Austrian Consul at Smyrna instructions that will satisfy your Lordship, though he could not place him under the absolute guidance of the British Admiral.

He greatly doubts if anything would now be gained by a collective representation to the Porte.

No. 309.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 12, 8 P.M.)

(No. 174.) *Vienna, October* 12, 1880, 7·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

BARON CALICE has telegraphed that he understands that the note from the Porte will promise the immediate cession of Dulcigno, but will not say that it shall be handed over ("remis") to Montenegro.

The Ambassador added that he was invited to dine with the Sultan to-day.

Baron Haymerle at once sent off a very strongly-worded telegram in reply, pointing out that there was a great difference between the simple abandonment of the territory and its formal transfer to Montenegro, which was what the Powers had been led to expect on Saturday.

The Ambassador was ordered solemnly to warn the Sultan that if he did not loyally and completely carry out his engagements, he would expose himself to the greatest danger, from which none would attempt to protect him; that His Majesty was deluding himself if he thought there was any difference amongst the Powers; and he was reminded that if some of the Powers abstained from taking an active part in any particular measure, the danger to him would certainly not be diminished by their absence.

This telegram is to be sent after Baron Calice to the Palace if he has already gone there, so that it may be at once communicated to the Sultan.

No. 310.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 12, 9·8 P.M.)

(No. 196. Confidential.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 12, 1880, 6·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

M. JOMINI considers it most important that one of the other Powers at least should send ships to Smyrna. A joint action by only Russia and England would excite so much suspicion in Austria and Germany that his Excellency is not sure the Emperor would send his ships under such circumstances. He seems to think at the last moment Italy may draw back, and also contribute only moral support.

He attaches no value now to Count Maffei's assertions, reported in your telegram No. 775, as the refusal of three Powers to join in active measures has altered the situation.

M. Jomini is bitter against Austria, whom he accuses of breaking up the European concert, and also of exciting Her Majesty's Government against Russia respecting pretended Russian intrigues in the Balkan Principalities.

He again said that the object of Russia was to act with England.

M. Jomini seemed to be speaking seriously, and by instruction, but he warned me these were only his private views.

No. 311.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 584.) *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880.
Sir,

IN a note communicated to me on the 10th ultimo by M. Contostavlos, of which a copy is inclosed herewith, the Greek Government complain that the Ottoman authorities in Thessaly and Epirus are selling by public auction estates of all kinds, including lands belonging to the State.

In my despatch to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens No. 83 of the 28th June last, of which a copy was transmitted to your Excellency, I stated it would probably be necessary that the rectification of the continental limits of Greece under the Berlin Award should be recorded by a Treaty arrangement similar to that signed at Constantinople on the 21st July, 1832.

Amongst the stipulations which I said Her Majesty's Government considered should be inserted in such Treaty was one that proper compensation should be given to the Porte for any lands or property belonging *bonâ fide* to the State or to religious foundations. This provision contemplated that such lands as were State property under the Ottoman Government should remain State lands under the Greek Government, the former receiving from the latter compensation for them, but to recognize a conversion of public into private titles made subsequently to the decision of the Berlin Conference would no more be consistent with this intention than it would be to recognize a cession of part of the same territory to some other Power instead of to Greece. Her Majesty's Government therefore desire that your Excellency should address a note to the Porte stating that any alleged rights of property in lands which were State lands within the territory assigned to Greece by the Conference, acquired subsequently to the date of the Berlin Award either by sale or by grant of any kind from the Sultan or the Porte, will not be recognized by Her Majesty's Government as within the guarantees to Mussulman proprietors or other inhabitants of the territory to be ceded, which, in my despatch to Mr. Corbett, it was proposed should be secured to them by Treaty, and it will, so far as Her Majesty's Government are concerned, be left to the Hellenic Government to deal with all titles so acquired by any such grants or sales as they may think fit.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 312.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 585. Extender.) *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880.
Sir,

YOUR Excellency's telegram No. 304 of to-day, containing the substance of the note from the Porte announcing its intention to cede Dulcigno, has been received with satisfaction by Her Majesty's Government, and I have to express their cordial thanks to your Excellency for your successful exertions in bringing about this solution of a long-pending difficulty.

It is important, in their opinion, that the Convention proposed by the Ottoman Government for arranging the conditions of the cession should be concluded without delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 313.

*Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 1352. Extender.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880.

I HAVE to request that your Excellency will communicate to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs the substance of Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 303, which was repeated to you this morning; and that you will call his Excellency's special attention to the passage in which Her Majesty's Ambassador expresses his opinion that a firm front on the part of the Powers would decide the question in favour of concession by the Porte.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 314.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.†

(No. , Extender.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880.

I HAVE to request that your Excellency will express to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt from Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour of the friendly and cordial feeling with which the Commander of the French naval force has co-operated with him in making the necessary arrangements for the proposed naval demonstration at Dulcigno.

In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government these preparations have had their full, though indirect, effect in bringing about a conclusion which, it is hoped, will render any further demonstration of force in that quarter unnecessary.

Her Majesty's Government propose to send orders to Admiral Seymour to wait for further instructions, unless, contrary to their expectation, the necessity should arise for him to act upon those of the 8th September, which he previously received, and a copy of which has already been forwarded to your Excellency for communication to the French Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 315.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.‡

(No. 1355. Extender.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880.

IN consequence of the critical position of affairs at Constantinople, and in view of the temperament shown by the Sultan, Her Majesty's Government trusts that the Governments of Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Italy, and Russia will concur with them, that the fleets now at Cattaro should remain at that place until further orders.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 316.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 674. Extender.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880.

FOR the sake of expedition I have to request your Excellency to ask the Austro-Hungarian Government to favour Her Majesty's Government with their opinion of the Turkish note as soon as it reaches them.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Mr. Macdonell (No. 554), Lord Odo Russell (No. 553), Sir H. Elliot (No. 675), and Mr. Plunkett (No. 519).

† Also to Mr. Macdonell (No.), Lord Odo Russell (No. 555), Sir H. Elliot (No. 676), and Mr. Plunkett (No. 520).

‡ Also to Mr. Macdonell (No. 558), Lord Odo Russell (No. 556), Sir H. Elliot (No. 677), and Mr. Plunkett (No. 521).

No. 317

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 678. Extender.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880.

I HAVE to request your Lordship to ask the Austrian Government, confidentially, to instruct their Agent in Montenegro to strongly advise the Prince not to make difficulties about the conditions of the Convention which the Porte wishes to conclude before ceding Dulcigno, as he is little likely to receive any support from the Powers should he do so.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 317 A.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 555. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 440, marked Secret and Confidential, of the 28th ultimo, recording what had passed between yourself and M. Kenerseau and Count Maffei with reference to some explanations which appear to have been exchanged between your French colleague and the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs in regard to the relations subsisting between England and Italy and the understanding existing between the two countries, especially as regards the Eastern question; and I have to express my approval of the language which you held to Count Maffei when discussing these matters with him.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 317 B.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 127. Confidential. Extender.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880.

I HAVE instructed you this day by telegraph to advise the Prince of Montenegro, as strongly as possible, to avoid making difficulties in regard to the conditions of the Convention which the Porte is about to propose on the subject of the Dulcigno cession, as there is little probability of His Highness receiving support in the event of his adopting such a course.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 318.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 30. Extender.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 12, 1880.

I HAVE received a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople announcing the receipt of the note from the Porte declaring its intention of immediately giving instructions to the authorities at Dulcigno for the cession of that locality to Montenegro, the conditions of the cession to be settled by a Convention.

The above has been transmitted to you by telegraph, and I have instructed you to communicate it to Admiral Sir B. Seymour and Mr. Green, and to request the Admiral to convey the intelligence to the Prince of Montenegro, with the suggestion that no time should be lost by His Highness in authorizing his Agent at Constantinople to come to an agreement with the Ambassadors on the conditions of the Convention which will be proposed.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 319.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 105. Political.)

Salonica, October 4, 1880.

My Lord,

HAVING heard that the Ottoman authorities had required the Christian inhabitants of the district of Cassandra to provide guards for each village to resist the brigands, and had issued a certain quantity of rifles and ammunition for the purpose, I applied to my correspondent in that district (Mr. H. Suter) for information on the subject.

I have the honour to inclose his reply, and to be, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 319.

Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent in Cassandra.

Ourmelia (Cassandra), September 25, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE just returned from a tour to Mount Athos, and am in a position to give you the information you ask as to the issue of arms by the Government to the Christian villagers in and about Cassandra.

Each village is obliged to furnish one man for every fifty houses, for the purpose of chasing the brigands. These men are called Courodjis, and they have a Chief with the title of Courodji Bashi—the rank of on-bashi or chaoush (corporal or sergeant) being exclusively confined to Mahommedans.

The arms supplied are of the Schneider pattern, and each man is allowed fifty cartridges. These latter I found to be of very inferior manufacture.

The community of each village is held responsible for the conduct of the Courodjis, and has to see that the arms are used only for the purpose intended, *i.e.*, the chase of brigands.

This measure of the Government may be very good in theory, but in practice I believe it has failed utterly, as the Christians—in this district—are either too cowardly to make a stand against an attack of brigands, or, as is more generally the case, they are in collusion with them. It may be argued that the latter conclusion is erroneous, as cases have occurred where villagers have been carried off into captivity by the brigands, but there is every possibility that the carrying off of Chorbadjies may have been a pre-arranged thing, merely to throw dust in the eyes of the authorities, so that the suspicion of complicity might be done away with. At least such is the opinion prevalent about here.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ————.

No. 320.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 462.)

St. Petersburgh, October 8, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 456 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of the note which, as arranged between us, I have addressed to Baron Jomini, inquiring as to the willingness of the Russian Government to remonstrate against the abuses at Bourgas described by Colonel Wilson.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 320.

Mr. Plunkett to Baron Jomini.

St. Petersburgh, September 25/October 7, 1880.

M. le Baron,

WITH reference to the conversation I had the honour of having with your Excellency yesterday, I beg to inclose herewith some particulars furnished by Colonel Wilson of cases of hardship and ill-treatment inflicted upon the Mussulman and Greek populations in the district of Bourgas.

These are proceedings which must excite equal horror in the mind of every European

Government, and which more especially equally affect each Power whose signature is appended to the Treaty of Berlin.

It is in a remonstrance at Philippopoli against these acts that I had the honour to express the hope that Russia would join.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) F. PLUNKETT.

No. 321.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 13.)

(No. 971.)

Paris, October 12, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 958 of the 8th instant, and to previous correspondence respecting the condition of the minor populations in the province of Bourgas, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a note from M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, saying that instructions will be sent to the French Ambassador at Constantinople to confer with Mr. Goschen on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 321.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire to Mr. Adams.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

VOUS m'avez fait l'honneur de me communiquer de la part de votre Gouvernement une note relative aux vexations dont les Grecs et les Musulmans de la Roumélie Orientale seraient victimes de la part de l'élément Bulgare, notamment dans le district de Bourgas. Vous avez bien voulu depuis me transmettre un Rapport sur le même sujet adressé à l'Ambassadeur Britannique à Constantinople par M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson. J'ai pris connaissance avec grand intérêt de ces documents, et je m'empresse de faire savoir à votre Excellence que nous envisageons avec le même sentiment de réprobation que le Cabinet Anglais les mauvais traitements qui nous ont été signalés. J'écris à ce sujet à l'Ambassadeur de la République à Constantinople, en lui envoyant copie de la note que vous m'avez remise, et je l'invite en même temps à en conférer avec Mr. Goschen. Nous nous associerons très-volontiers au Gouvernement Britannique dans les démarches que les deux Ambassadeurs auraient d'un commun accord reconnu opportunes et susceptibles de mettre un terme à un état de choses dont nous apprécions pleinement le caractère regrettable et les périls.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) B. ST. HILAIRE.

No. 322.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, October 13.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 12 Octobre, 1880.

JE viens d'adresser à MM. les Ambassadeurs des Six Puissances à Constantinople la note suivante, datée du 11, à minuit :—

"Le Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, est chargé par son Gouvernement de porter ce qui suit à la connaissance de leurs Excellences MM. les Ambassadeurs de

"La Sublime Porte, voulant donner une nouvelle preuve de la loyauté et de son bon vouloir, déclare qu'elle cède Dulcigno, et qu'elle donnera immédiatement des instructions catégoriques aux autorités locales pour la cession de cette localité aux autorités Monténégrines par des moyens pacifiques. Une Convention devra intervenir pour régler les conditions de cette cession.

"Le Gouvernement Ottoman, qui ne fait ce sacrifice que dans le but d'écarter la démonstration navale, espère que par cette mesure la dite démonstration sera complètement mise de côté.

"Le Soussigné saisit, &c."

Je vous prie de donner lecture de ma note précitée au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et de lui en laisser copie s'il le désire.

No. 323.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, October* 13.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 12 *Octobre*, 1880.

SUITE à mon télégramme No. 122, Spécial :—

Ma note d'hier ne laisse subsister aucun doute quant à la résolution du Gouvernement Impérial d'en finir avec la question Monténégrine. Je ne saurais assez vous recommander de bien établir autour de vous le sens et la portée de cette communication. Nous ne doutons pas que le Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité n'apprécie à leur haute valeur les sentiments éminemment conciliants qui nous ont dicté une résolution faite pour dégager la situation de la plus urgente des questions du jour.

No. 324.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received October* 13.)

(Secret.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, October* 12, 1880.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to state, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that the following telegram No. 36 has this day been dispatched to Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour by Lord Northbrook :—

"Captain Sale's telegram No. 26 of the 9th October.

"The points mentioned were designedly left for supplementary instructions, which you will receive if necessary."

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 325.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 13, 7·53 A.M.)

(No. 308.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 12, 1880, 11·20 P.M.

EXPLANATIONS received seem satisfactory.

Firstly, by Dulcigno the Porte mean the town and the district, as originally defined.

Secondly, Riza Pasha combines military and civil functions, being Imperial Commissioner and Commander of the troops, and the Convention will be concluded on the spot between the Ottoman and Montenegrin Commanders.

Thirdly, the details of the transfer of Dulcigno, with its district, into the hands of the Montenegrins, will be settled by the above-mentioned Convention.

Fourthly, instructions have been given to Riza Pasha to effect the cession. The Representatives of the Powers will be informed of the progress of the operations of the cession.

On the other hand, French Ambassador has news from Scutari that Riza Pasha is failing in attempts to pacify Albanians.

No. 326.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 13, 12·20 A.M.)

(No. 175.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 12, 1880, 10 P.M.

WHEN I saw Baron Haymerle this afternoon he had received no news of the receipt of the note from the Porte, but he thought that, if the Turkish troops are withdrawn from Dulcigno, the Prince of Montenegro is bound to attempt its occupation, according to the understanding upon which the naval demonstration was based.

No. 327.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 13, 8·28 P.M.)

(No. 176.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 13, 1880, 6 P.M.

IN reply to your Lordship's inquiry respecting the opinion of the Austrian Government upon the Turkish note :—

They look upon it as open to suspicion, especially from the omission of a plain statement of the territory to be ceded, and the doubt as to what is to be left to be decided by the Convention, but they think the Powers must endeavour to make the most of it.

They entirely agree that the ships should remain at Cattaro or the neighbourhood till the district is put into the possession of the Montenegrins.

The Turkish Ambassador has just asked whether, in consequence of the assurances given by his Government, the demonstration would not at once cease, but he was told that the words of the Porte must become facts before the Powers came to any decision.

It is not thought here that it would be advisable for the Admiral to negotiate the Convention; and this Government will, I think, support any course proposed by your Lordship respecting it, but it is believed that the Montenegrin Agent who was recalled from Constantinople some time ago has not yet returned there.

No. 328.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 13, 7·45 P.M.)

(No. 177.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 13, 1880, 7 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS, similar to your Lordship's to Mr. Green, will be sent to the Austrian Minister at Cettinjé, desiring him to advise the Prince not to make difficulties about the Convention with the Porte.

No. 329.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 13.)

(Commercial.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 13, 1·12 P.M.

THERE seems no longer any doubt that Convention for Customs Union between Servia and Bulgaria has been decided upon, if not actually signed.

No. 330.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 13, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 115.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October* 13, 1880, 4·36 P.M.

I HAVE spoken to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs in the sense of your telegrams 556 and 557.

He authorizes me to inform your Lordship that the French Government have no intention to withdraw its squadron from Cattaro at this moment.

No. 331.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 13, 8·22 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Smyrna, October* 13, 1880, 3 P.M.

MORE precise information in respect of telegram of 6th. Infantry 800 in all province, 400 here. Artillery 200, all here. Gendarmerie 2,200 in all province, 250 here, 300 horse. Reserves, 48 battalions in all province, mustering about 24,000, of which 8,000 here and neighbourhood. Castle mounts 20 guns, 9 large [?], rest for salute. Nine torpedoes in castle removed since war, not yet ready laid.

No. 332.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 13, 9·12 P.M.)

(No. 197.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 13, 1880, 5·15 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 798, M. Jomini says he is certain the Russian ships will remain as long as British Admiral wants them. He will telegraph to Livadia your Lordship's wishes on the subject.

No. 333.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 13, 9·12 P.M.)

(No. 198.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 13, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 796, M. Jomini entirely agrees on importance for the Powers to continue united, and to show a firm front to the Porte.

Russia will be firm, but he seems doubtful of firmness of Austria and France, and therefore also of Germany.

No. 334.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 13, 11·15 P.M.)

(No. 199.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 13, 1880, 6 P.M.

M. JOMINI expressed to me again to-day his regret at the continued suspicions shown by Her Majesty's Government of Russian proceedings in the Balkan Principalities, and he read me the Russian answer to your remarks reported in your despatch No. 480.

This ought to reach Prince Lobanow to-day, and will be communicated to your Lordship. With regard to portion where M. de Giers objects to my having put in the form of an official note the observations on Captain Eck's proceedings at Philippopoli (see my despatch No. 413), I reminded M. Jomini that, when M. de Giers is at Livadia, there is no other way of communicating to him such details, except in writing.

M. Jomini acknowledged the truth of this observation.

He again laid great stress on the certainty of revolution if the Sultan attempts to place Turkish troops in the Balkans.

No. 335.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 973.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 12, 1880.

IN obedience to your Lordship's telegraphic instruction of to-day, I have lost no time in communicating to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire the contents of the telegram which you received this morning from Mr. Goschen respecting the note on the subject of Dulcigno which the Ambassadors at Constantinople were expecting from the Porte.

I did not fail to call particular attention to the passage in which Mr. Goschen says that a firm front on the part of the Powers at the present moment would decide the question in favour of concession.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 336.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 975.)
My Lord, *Paris, October* 13, 1880.

I SPOKE to M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire this afternoon in the sense of telegraphic instructions on the subject of the allied squadrons, which I had the honour to receive last night from your Lordship.

I expressed to his Excellency the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government had received from Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour reports describing the friendly and cordial feeling with which the Commander of the French squadron had co-operated with him in making preparations for the naval demonstration at Dulcigno.

I observed that these preparations had had, although indirectly, their full effect, and had brought the Porte to a decision which would, it might be hoped, make any further demonstration of force in that quarter unnecessary.

I proceeded to inform M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire that Her Majesty's Government proposed to send orders to Sir Beauchamp Seymour to wait for further instructions, unless, indeed, contrary to their expectations, a necessity should arise for him to act upon the instructions sent to him on the 8th of last month.

Finally, I said that, considering the critical situation of affairs at Constantinople, and the temperament of the Sultan, Her Majesty's Government trusted that the Government of France, as well as those of the other allied Powers, would agree with them in thinking that the fleets should be kept at Cattaro until further orders.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire observed that the President of the Republic had returned to Paris in the night, and had held a Council of Ministers this morning; and he added that he was able to authorize me to assure your Lordship positively that the French Government had no intention of withdrawing their squadron from Cattaro at the present moment.

His Excellency proceeded to read to me the text of the note received by the Ambassadors at Constantinople, and said that the Ambassadors had called upon the Porte for explanations, more particularly with regard to the Convention stated in the note to be necessary. It would, his Excellency conceived, be advisable to wait for these explanations before taking any fresh step.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 337.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanoff.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Prince Lobanoff, October* 14.)

(Télégraphique.) *Livadia, le* $\frac{1}{13}$ *Octobre*, 1880.

NOUS sommes d'avis que la Convention réclamée par la Porte devrait mentionner toute la ligne-frontière proposée par l'Autriche et acceptée par les autres Puissances, et que, tant que la remise de Dulcigno et le reste de la délimitation ne seront pas des faits accomplis, il serait prématuré de renoncer à la démonstration navale.

Veuillez nous faire connaître l'opinion du Gouvernement Anglais.

No. 338.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 14, 2·30 A.M.)

(No. 30.)
(Telegraphic.) *Baosich, October* 13, 1880, 8·20 P.M.

THE Admiral is now telegraphing to Mr. Goschen to urge Porte to communicate with the Prince of Montenegro through their Agent at Cettinjé their presumed intention to cede Dulcigno, and to invite His Highness to arrange a Convention with the local authorities at Scutari.

There is no Agent of the Prince of Montenegro at Constantinople, as mentioned in your Lordship's telegram No. 30 of the 12th instant.

The Prince of Montenegro asks that myself and the Russian Commissioner should be present on the Montenegrin side if the cession is carried out, and that the Austrian and German Commissioners now at Scutari should be present on the Turkish side.

No. 339.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 107.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October* 14, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's No. 681.

Minister for Foreign Affairs has just called to tell me that the German Government concurs with Her Majesty's Government that the fleets should remain at Cattaro until further orders.

No. 340.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 14, 9 A.M.)

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October* 14, 1880, 8 A.M.

YOUR telegram No. 722.

Count Maffei informed me last night that the Italian Government entirely concur that the Powers must now assume a firm and determined attitude towards the Sultan. He added that the Italian reply to the last communication of the Porte, both here and at Constantinople, was that "execution and not empty promises could now save the Empire from an imminent catastrophe."

The Italian squadron will not move from Cattaro till further orders.

No. 341.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 14, 6·15 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Smyrna, October* 14, 1880, 3·20 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, I have the honour to acquaint your Lordship that the Captain of the "Cygnet" visited castle yesterday and saw wires in working order for eight torpedoes already laid. Captain will telegraph this fact to the Admiral.

No. 342.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 14.)

(No. 178.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 14, 1880.

THE Austrian Government having learnt the Porte includes the whole district of Dulcigno in cession, and that the Convention spoken of in the note applies to the arrangements to be made between the military Commanders, trust that no difficulties will be raised about secondary details.

They understand that a suggestion has been or is likely to be made, requiring the Sultan to guarantee Montenegro against the Albanians, and they think that it would be most unwise to put forward a demand almost certain to be refused, and which would, therefore, endanger the settlement at which we seem so nearly arrived.

The first object should now be to get the Montenegrins to possess the district, and if there should be occasion for it hereafter, the Sultan must be called upon to perform his international duties towards his neighbouring State.

No. 343.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 14, *midnight.*)

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buosich, October* 14, 1880, 10·40 P.M.

RELIABLE information from the English naval officer on the spot has been received that the Turks are defending Smyrna Harbour with torpedoes.

This, perhaps, explains apparent yielding in the last Turkish note.

No. 344.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 126.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 14, 1880.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 150 of the 20th ultimo, reporting the representations which you had made to the Prince of Bulgaria and M. Zancoff relating to the retention by the Municipality of Sophia of 40 instead of 20 per cent.—in addition to other charges—on the sale of certain Mussulman property in that town of which M. Falanga is the agent; and I have to instruct you to state to the Prince and M. Zancoff that Her Majesty's Government regret to learn that the promises held out to the foreign Agents at Sophia by M. Zancoff's Circular of the 19th July last are so inadequately fulfilled.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 345.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 15.)

(No. 436.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 8, 1880.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 423, I beg to address the following observations to your Lordship on the note of the Porte dated the 3rd October, which relates to finance.

The character of the proposals made in this respect will not have escaped your Lordship's notice.

Representatives of the boudholders are to be summoned to Constantinople, in order to come to an understanding with the Porte as regards some arrangement for the Turkish Debt—an arrangement which is to include the Russian indemnity; but all diplomatic action on the subject is to be excluded ("sans l'ingérence des Puissances"). When an understanding shall have been arrived at, the representatives of the creditors are to name a bank, to whom the administration of the so-called six Indirect Contributions and the revenues arising from certain other assets—some of which, however, are of a very problematical character—are to be transferred.

The six indirect imposts were, as your Lordship is aware, pledged in November last to a syndicate of bankers, and a separate Administration organized for their collection. In the Convention which embodied the conditions under which the arrangement took place it is said that the Imperial Government reserves the right of annulling the Convention, but only on two conditions, described as "essential" and "peremptory," namely, firstly, the entire repayment of capital and interest to the syndicate of bankers, and, secondly, a better arrangement for creditors generally.

As the sum still due to the syndicate is about £T.8,000,000, it is evident that one of the two conditions could certainly not be fulfilled.

No word is said in explanation of the apparent breach of contract. The Convention is quietly set aside.

I have ascertained that, up till yesterday, no communication had been made to the "Administration des Six Contributions Indirectes" or to the Ottoman Bank as to the proposal made to the Powers in the note.

Such is the conduct of the Porte towards the syndicate. With regard to the bondholders, your Lordship will observe that scarcely anything is offered to them which is not either pledged to other parties or as yet beyond the power of the Porte. The Ottoman Government surrender no share of their present assets. They offer:

1. The six Indirect Contributions, the chief proportion of which is now received for the benefit of the syndicate of bankers, while the rest is already set apart for the creditors.

2. An increase in the custom duties which is only possible if the Powers assent to modifications in their Treaties of Commerce.

3. Any augmentation in the revenue which will arise from the substitution of an income tax for the licence tax, though the Porte must be aware that some of the Powers are likely to dispute the right of the Porte to make such a change under the Capitulations.

4. The sums payable by Eastern Roumelia and Cyprus and the tribute payable by Bulgaria, the Porte probably presuming that the safest way to secure the tributes of Roumelia and Bulgaria would be to give them to foreign creditors, while as to the

annuity from Cyprus, the Turkish Government probably desires to forestall any possible set-off which the English Government might be disposed to make as against debts long overdue by the Porte to itself.

Lastly. A perfectly undefined portion of any future increment of general revenue which may occur.

The flimsy character of the promises thus made to the creditors of the Porte is obvious enough. The motive for making them is not less self-evident.

The Convention made by the Porte in November last with the syndicate of bankers was strongly attacked by the representatives of the bondholders. Securities originally pledged to the bondholders, but the revenues of which had for some years been confiscated for the uses of the Government, were assigned as security for advances made during the war, and a great outery was raised. Accordingly, the Porte seems now to hope that, by cancelling the November Convention in favour of the general bondholders, they may secure some support amongst the latter; and they may further be under the belief that a powerful body of creditors may bring pressure to bear on the Powers to accept the general programme of the Porte, as it is only in the event of that acceptance that the proposals, such as they are, made in favour of the creditors, are to take effect.

Not the least singular point in this part of the Turkish note is the introduction of the Russian indemnity, which, however, under the terms of the note, is to be settled without the intervention of the Powers.

The note entirely ignores the 18th Protocol of the Berlin Congress, which contemplates the appointment of a Financial Commission, composed of specialists named by their respective Governments, which Commission should be charged to examine into the complaints of the bondholders of the Ottoman debt, and to propose the most efficacious means for satisfying them as far as is compatible with the financial situation of the Porte. Indeed, the phrase with reference to "the interference of the Powers" is a tacit protest against the recommendations of the Protocol.

But Her Majesty's Government will probably consider that the best answer to give to the note of the Porte as regards financial plans will be to refer to the Protocol in question, and to propose the establishment of the Commission recommended therein.

The principle included in the proposals of the Porte, of giving the representatives of the bondholders the administration of certain taxes set apart for their benefit, is advantageous in itself, and it will be right to take note that it has been made.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 346.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 15.)

(No. 440.)

Therapia, October 8, 1880.

My Lord,

THE passage in the last note of the Porte relating to the introduction of reforms in the European provinces of Turkey seems to me very obscure. The general context leads to the inference that the Porte takes exception to certain parts of the proposed Statute as not sufficiently guarding its sovereign rights; and the phrase, that the "aforesaid document," that is, the proposed Statute, will be put into force, should probably be subordinated to its being proved to meet the principles which the note lays down.

This interpretation is confirmed by the analysis of the note made by the Turkish paper, the "Hakikat," which on this occasion is said to have received special inspiration.

I inclose a translation of the article of the "Hakikat," published in the "Stamboul," and which, from several points of view, is interesting. The analysis states, with reference to the reforms in Europe, that the Turkish Government, being at liberty not to accept reforms which would be contrary to its interests and its rights, promises and assures Europe that it will inaugurate in those provinces "des règlements locaux, bienfaisants et justes." It does not say that the proposed Statute is to be enforced.

Another newspaper, the "Phare du Bosphore," professing to give the substance of the article in the "Hakikat," says—"The Porte does not accept the reforms elaborated for the European provinces, considering them contrary to its interests and its rights, and it engages to introduce in those provinces wise reforms." This, I conceive, is a very fair recording of the real meaning of the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 346.

Extract from the "Stamboul" of October 7, 1880.

LE PROGRAMME DE LA SUBLIME PORTE.—Hier, nous avons donné une analyse sommaire de la dernière proposition faite par le Gouvernement aux Puissances étrangères pour arriver à la solution des questions pendantes.

La teneur de cette proposition a été communiquée, avons-nous dit, Lundi, aux Ambassadeurs accrédités à Constantinople.

Nous sommes redevables au "Hakikat," dépositaire naturel des confidences Gouvernementales, du texte de ce document. Il le publie presque *in extenso* et l'accompagne de commentaires, amalgamés au document officiel, dont la portée n'échappera à personne, étant donnée l'intimité de l'organe Turc avec certaines individualités plannat dans les plus hautes sphères.

Nous traduisons donc en entier ce document, et le livrons tel quel au lecteur :—

"Le Gouvernement Ottoman, en vue d'affirmer encore une fois son grand respect pour les Traités, par la solution prompte et définitive, non-seulement de la question Monténégrine, mais bien de toutes les autres questions prescrites par le Traité de Berlin, a remis hier matin une dernière note aux Grandes Puissances. Ce document est le résultat des continuelles délibérations qui, depuis dix ou onze jours, ont lieu depuis le matin jusqu'au soir, et du soir jusqu'au matin, chose qui constitue un souvenir diplomatique digne d'attirer l'attention, en raison de l'importance qu'elle a à tous les points de vue.

"Nous avons obtenu au sujet de cette note des informations très-détaillées dont nous garantissons la stricte authenticité, et que nous résumons de la manière suivante :—

"Les questions qui ont été traitées dans cette note sont celles de la délimitation des frontières Monténégrines, de la délimitation des frontières Helléniques, des réformes à introduire dans les territoires habités par les Arméniens, des Règlements Organiques des provinces de la Turquie d'Europe, enfin, de la question financière, et de l'indemnité de guerre due à la Russie.

"En tout six points, et dont chacun, après avoir été entièrement rapporté aux dispositions claires du Traité de Berlin, est exprimé Article par Article avec indication de la manière dont le Gouvernement Ottoman entend les exécuter.

"Premièrement, le document procède à la solution de la question Monténégrine en proposant l'évacuation de Dulcigno, et pour arriver à cela les trois conditions précédemment soumises aux Grandes Puissances ont été encore une fois renouvelées de telle façon que si les Cabinets Européens veulent accepter le *statu quo* pour le restant de l'Albanie, veulent abandonner la démonstration navale à la suite de cette solution, et garantir la vie, les biens, et l'honneur de la population Musulmane qui sera soumise au Gouvernement Monténégrin, et le confirmer de nouveau par leur signature, alors le Gouvernement Ottoman consentira à évacuer le district de Dulcigno, et, dans ce cas, il adressera une Proclamation à la population de cet endroit, déclarant que ceux qui voudraient se réfugier sur le sol Ottoman n'auront qu'à suivre les autorités dans leur évacuation.

"Cette assurance des Grandes Puissances une fois acquise, la Sublime Porte proclamera la sécurité de la vie, des biens, et de tous les autres droits de ceux qui voudraient rester.

"Enfin, la note dit que le Gouvernement Ottoman exécutera immédiatement cette évacuation après l'obtention de toutes les garanties réclamées aux Grandes Puissances. Le document veut dire que si les Grandes Puissances ont du respect pour les dispositions du Traité de Berlin, elles accepteront cette proposition; car d'abord la démonstration navale n'a jamais figuré dans ce Traité; ensuite la garantie réclamée pour la population des territoires annexés au Monténégro est conforme aux stipulations du Traité. La note dit, enfin, que la cession des territoires au Monténégro, également stipulée par le dit Traité, devant être accomplie par la cession de Dulcigno, il est très-naturel qu'on garantisse du *statu quo* pour tous les autres points (de l'Albanie).

"Quant à la question Hellénique, le Gouvernement Ottoman propose une nouvelle ligne de délimitation à condition que Janina, Larisse, Metzovo, le territoire de Tchamlik, et Preveza restent à la Turquie. Dans cette question les dispositions du Traité de Berlin consistent à n'imposer au Gouvernement Ottoman aucun sacrifice dont l'exécution soit impossible, et à conseiller à la Grèce la modération. La nouvelle ligne de frontière proposée par la note, en gardant les points susmentionnés, étant absolument

conforme aux dispositions du Traité, il n'y a aucune raison pour que les Grandes Puissances ne veuillent pas accepter cette nouvelle ligne.

"Les conditions posées pour la cession de Dulcigno, et spécialement les questions se rattachant à l'émigration volontaire des populations des territoires cédés sur le sol Turc, et la garantie de sécurité pour ceux qui voudraient rester sur le territoire annexé, figurent tout au long dans cet Article. Le Gouvernement Impérial se charge d'évacuer dans 100 jours les territoires devant être cédés à la Grèce dans le cas où ces conditions seraient acceptées.

"Les réformes à introduire, conformément aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin, dans les provinces habitées par les Arméniens, occupent sept Articles de la note. Ces réformes consistent dans la révision et la réorganisation des Tribunaux de Diarbékir, Van, Erzéroum, et Bitlis; dans l'amélioration de la police et de la gendarmerie déjà instituées dans ces provinces; le droit de nomination directe par les Gouverneurs-Généraux de tous les fonctionnaires départementaux, pris à l'avenir parmi les fonctionnaires des Ministères auxquels ils appartiennent, excepté les Sous-Gouverneurs, les Secrétaires-Généraux, et les Contrôleurs-Généraux; l'envoi et le maintien de la force publique, selon le besoin indiqué par les Gouverneurs-Généraux. Déduction faite des appointements du personnel de la province et des dépenses urgentes indiquées par son budget, 10 pour cent de tous les revenus de la province, excepté ceux des Douanes, des Postes, et des Télégraphes, seront affectés à l'Instruction et aux Travaux Publics, et 90 pour cent au Trésor Impérial.

"La nomination des fonctionnaires aura lieu sans distinction de race et de religion mais uniquement suivant leurs capacités, conformément à l'esprit de la législation Ottomane.

"Dans le service de la sûreté publique les Chefs seront nommés par le Ministre de la Guerre, et les autres officiers de cette institution seront nommés par le Conseil de leurs corps respectifs. Ils devront faire légaliser ces nominations par le Ministère de la Guerre.

"Enfin, les lois qui seront mises en vigueur dans les Tribunaux seront absolument les mêmes que celles sur lesquelles se basent tous les autres Tribunaux de l'Empire.

"Il faut remarquer que les réformes recommandées par le Traité de Berlin, pour les territoires habités par des Arméniens, ne sont pas traitées aussi largement et d'une façon aussi détaillée, d'autant plus que le Gouvernement Impérial garantit l'exécution et l'accomplissement de ces réformes; mais il accepte à leur propos le droit de surveillance des Puissances et leur droit d'observations dans le cas où l'exécution de ces réformes resterait en souffrance.

"Venant aux réformes à introduire dans les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe, point qui tient plus au cœur du Gouvernement qu'à celui de toute autre Puissance, la note déclare que le Gouvernement étant libre de ne pas admettre des réformes qui seraient contraires à ses intérêts et à ses droits, promet et assure à l'Europe une fois de plus qu'il inaugurera dans ces provinces des règlements locaux, bienfaisants et justes. Restent les questions financières, et de l'indemnité de guerre. Elles sont mûrement et spécialement étudiées dans cette note et relevées avec une importance particulière, de sorte que le Gouvernement Ottoman, garantissant les intérêts des créanciers Européens, et sans donner lieu à l'intervention des Puissances, invite directement les syndicats des détenteurs de fonds Turcs à se réunir à Constantinople dans le but de s'arranger directement avec eux, et se déclare disposé à remettre entre leurs mains toutes les garanties nécessaires.

"Ces garanties consistent d'abord dans les revenus des six Contributions Indirectes retirées des mains de leurs entrepreneurs actuels, après de dédommagement spécial par le Gouvernement et que celui-ci consentirait à voir gérer, au nom de ces syndicats, par une banque spéciale.

"La note décide, en outre, de céder aux détenteurs de fonds Turcs comme garantie de toute notre dette les revenus de la Bulgarie, de la Roumélie Orientale, l'excédant des revenus de Chypre, et tous les revenus provenant du droit des patentes s'il venait à être adopté. La note consent en outre à leur céder une partie de l'excédant d'autres revenus qui résulteraient assurément et positivement de la réorganisation de nos finances.

"Comme les contractants des six Contributions Indirectes n'ont pas été trompés par cette entreprise, et comme il est connu de tout le monde que le Gouvernement n'a pas été lésé en faisant ce sacrifice, nous ne doutons pas que les détenteurs de nos fonds ne soient très-contents de cet arrangement, d'autant plus qu'un tel accord pacifique exprime la bonne volonté de sauvegarder les intérêts de nos créanciers. Il

est clair, en effet, que si l'affaire avait été laissée aux tiraillements des Puissances, les intérêts de nos créanciers seraient restés encore longtemps en souffrance et cela aurait constitué une perte autrement sérieuse pour eux.

"Quant à l'indemnité de guerre, il est proposé dans la note de la fusionner dans la dette générale.

"Telles sont les obligations dont le Traité de Berlin a chargé le Gouvernement Ottoman, et que celui-ci se déclare prêt à exécuter; mais il demande dans sa note, comme de juste, l'exécution par qui de droit de celles de ses obligations qui n'ont pas encore été remplies, ont pourtant été imposées par le même Traité, et qui sont à notre avantage, telles que l'occupation des Balkans, la démolition des forteresses composant le quadrilatère du Danube, et autres.

"Considérant que les agitations qui dominent partout nuisent on ne peut plus aux intérêts de toutes les nations, que les vives critiques des peuples Anglais, Français, et Hongrois, contre la politique inique de leurs Gouvernements (critiques exprimées dans des meetings tenus à Londres, à Paris, et à Pesth à propos de la terrible crise que subit l'Europe par sa conduite indécise) préparent le prélude d'une guerre générale, eu égard à ces considérations nous espérons que les Grandes Puissances accepteront ces conditions au nom de l'intérêt général, au nom de la loyauté des Gouvernements, et de la justice diplomatique.

"Enfin le Gouvernement Impérial conclut dans un langage à la fois ferme et amical en disant que si les Puissances Européennes refusent d'accepter ces conditions il sera établi clairement que leur intention n'a jamais été l'exécution des stipulations du Traité, mais bien la satisfaction de leurs rancunes particulières.

"Il sera évident qu'alors comme ils sont indépendants dans tous leurs actes, le Gouvernement Ottoman de son côté, dans le but de s'aider lui-même, se considérera libre dans toutes ses actions."

Le "Vakit" dit, à propos de la note qu'on vient de lire, qu'il n'y a aucune raison plausible pour que les Cabinets refusent d'accepter les propositions de la Sublime Porte. Mais il ajoute que le Cabinet Anglais étant par trop engagé dans les questions Orientales, peut-être M. Gladstone convoquera-t-il immédiatement le Parlement avec l'intention de représenter les dernières propositions du Gouvernement Impérial comme acte d'opposition radicale et de défi contre l'Angleterre.

Notre confrère espère néanmoins que le peuple Anglais "ne sera pas dupe des intrigues du Premier Ministre" et qu'il le renversera du pouvoir.

La feuille précitée représente la révolution Irlandaise comme menaçant l'Europe d'une catastrophe et rejette la responsabilité de cette éventualité sur le Ministère Anglais.

Inclosure 2 in No. 346.

Extract from the "Phare du Bosphore" of October 7, 1880.

LA Porte n'accepte point les réformes élaborées pour les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe, les considérant comme contraires à ses intérêts et à ses droits; et s'engage à introduire dans ces provinces de sages réformes.

No. 347.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 15, 1·43 A.M.)

(No. 309.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 14, 1880, 11·45 P.M.

LAST telegram from you No. 678.

The Porte, I hear, is elated at the news received from its Agents abroad as to way in which their last step has been received, especially at a communication from their Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, who states that if the Porte cedes Dulcigno no further pressure will be applied by Russia.

It is essential to take collective action to keep the Turks up to the mark. I advise instructions being immediately sent by all the Cabinets to Ambassadors here, to inquire on Saturday what has been done; whether Montenegrin* Agent at Cettinjé has been

* *Sic*, ? Turkish.

charged to make a communication to the Prince of Montenegro, and whether progress as to cession has been made.

I should almost consider it expedient to name a day, and to resume threats of ulterior measures, if delivery does not take place. A communication should be made to neutralize the tendency of the Porte to consider that their simple note, without immediate action, has satisfied the Powers.

Further, I earnestly call your Lordship's attention to the fact that, except in the one point of Dulcigno, the Porte's defiant note of the 3rd October remains unnoticed.

It would not be expedient to let the Porte consider that, by their one hesitating step at Dulcigno, they have entirely removed the bad impression of their previous note.

If the Powers show weariness and a disposition to be satisfied with what the Porte has promised, they will greatly increase their future difficulties.

German Ambassador has had no communication from his Government at all since they received the aggressive note.

French Ambassador promised me to telegraph for instructions to-night.

There should be no inaction.

No. 348.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 15, 8·39 A.M.)

(No. 311.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 15, 1880.

AUSTRIAN Consul's Dragoman and his wife have been assassinated at Prisrend. I hear from St. John that the man was very much hated, being an usurer and otherwise obnoxious. He thinks he was a native of Scutari. His house was attacked by a party of seven [?]

No. 349.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 686.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 15, 1880, 10 A.M.

THE Russians want the Convention to state the whole line of frontier to be ceded.

Can you ascertain exactly what is the intention of the Porte, and what the line would be? But if you think an argument on the subject will raise a fresh wrangle before Dulcigno is ceded, you may use your own discretion as to the extent to which you will push the inquiry. If the Porte understands its own interests, it will wish to settle the whole matter on our last terms.

No. 350.

Vice-Consul Maling to Earl Granville.—(Received October 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Dardanelles, October* 15, 1880.

A VERY large Turkish steam transport, heavily laden, has passed down during the night, name and destination unknown.

No. 351.

Mr. Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received October 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tunis, October* 15, 1880.

FRENCH iron-clads have left Tunis, proceeding to Greece.

No. 352.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Earl Granville.—(Received October 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Prevesa, October* 15, 1880.

LATE on Tuesday night six breech-loading field-guns were quietly put on board the Turkish gun-boat, and sent northward.

No. 353.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 15, 5 P.M.)

(No. 118.)
(Telegraphic.) *Teodo, October* 15, 1880, 11 A.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 12th, I had no doubt that the Prince will follow advice of Her Majesty's Government, which I had forestalled, but I learn from Scutari that the situation remains the same as when I left that place, and that, unless Riza Pasha receives categorical orders to make it publicly known that he will employ his troops to prevent all interference by the natives, the Albanians will inevitably oppose the advance of the Montenegrins.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 354.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received October 15, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) , *October* 15, 1880, 4 P.M.

A COMMUNICATION from Riza Pasha has been received in Cettinjé that, after some days, a Turkish Colonel would arrive in Cettinjé to determine the conditions of the evacuation of Dulcigno, in fulfilment of orders received from the Porte. The Turkish Colonel named is my colleague on the Boundary Commission. The date fixed for his arrival seems somewhat indefinite.

(Repeated to Constantinople.)

No. 355.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 15, 8·50 P.M.)

(No. 200.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 15, 1880, 6 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegrams Nos. 194 and 199, M. Jomini has also told one of my colleagues that, in his opinion, Russia should decline to go to Smyrna with England alone. There must at least be one other Power taking active part.

Every time I see M. Jomini he speaks of a certain outbreak if the Sultan revives question of his Treaty right to occupy Balkans, and he holds the same language to the other Representatives.

This may be either an honest wish to warn Powers of a danger, or be the excuse of an impending explosion; the apparent collapse of the Sultan, and consequent probability of abandonment of further naval demonstration making an excuse necessary.

Russian papers this morning urge continuation of naval demonstration until Greek and Armenian questions are settled.

No. 356.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 600. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 15, 1880.

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to me a telegram from his Government, stating that, in their opinion, the whole line of frontier to be ceded to Montenegro should be laid down in the Convention which the Porte proposes to conclude.

I have requested your Excellency by telegraph to ascertain, if possible, the intention of the Porte with regard to this matter, and the frontier to which it will agree. You will, however, use your own discretion as to the extent to which you will push such an inquiry, as your Excellency may consider that an argument on the subject may lead to a fresh altercation before the cession of Dulcigno is effected.

Her Majesty's Government believe that the Porte will be sacrificing its own interests if it does not endeavour to settle the whole matter on the terms last submitted to it.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 357.

M. de Hengelmüller to Earl Granville.—(Received October 16.)

Belgrave Square, le 16 Octobre, 1880.

M. le Comte,

LE Gouvernement Impérial et Royal désire que les Puissances prissent acte des réserves sous lesquelles il avait consenti à ce que dans l'intérêt de la démonstration navale les bâtiments de la flotte alliée fussent envoyés le cas échéant dans le port d'Antivari et les eaux Monténégrines.

Ces réserves se trouvaient formulées dans une note que le Baron de Haymerle m'a adressée en date du 30 Septembre dernier, et que j'ai eu l'honneur de communiquer verbalement à votre Excellence, en lui laissant en même temps en prendre copie.

Je me permets, d'ordre de mon Gouvernement, de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien prendre acte des réserves de l'Autriche-Hongrie, et m'accuser réception de la note dont j'ai eu l'honneur de lui laisser une copie.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) HENGELMÜLLER.

Inclosure in No. 357.

Baron Haymerle to M. de Hengelmüller.

Vienne, le 30 Septembre, 1880.

L'AMIRAL SEYMOUR s'était informé auprès du Commandant de notre escadre à Cravosa si dans le cas où, dans l'intérêt de la démonstration navale, il devenait nécessaire d'expédier des navires de guerre à la côte Monténégrine il pouvait considérer le port d'Antivari, où l'Autriche-Hongrie exerçait la police maritime et sanitaire, comme tout aussi accessible aux bâtiments de la flotte alliée que les ports de la Dalmatie appartenant à l'Autriche-Hongrie.

Informés de cette demande, nous avons chargé le Commandant de notre escadre de faire observer à l'Amiral Seymour que l'Article XXIX du Traité de Berlin nous conférait, il est vrai, le droit d'exercer la police maritime et sanitaire tant à Antivari que le long de la côte du Monténégro, mais qu'il fermait en même temps le dit port et toutes les eaux du Monténégro aux bâtiments de guerre de toutes les nations. Nous pouvions bien ouvrir nos ports de la Dalmatie aux bâtiments de la flotte alliée, mais, en ce qui concerne celui d'Antivari, il s'agirait de la suspension momentanée d'une stipulation du Traité de Berlin, et cette question nous ne pouvions légalement la décider à nous seuls. Pour notre part, nous ne ferions pas d'objection à ce que dans l'intérêt de la démonstration navale et pour faciliter les communications avec le Monténégro, l'Amiral Seymour envoie des bâtiments de guerre dans le dit port et dans les eaux du Monténégro, mais nous devions en même temps formuler la réserve expresse que ce fait ne devait porter aucun préjudice à la validité des stipulations de l'Article XXIX du Traité de Berlin, et qu'une fois la démonstration navale terminée les dites stipulations entrent *ipso facto* de nouveau en pleine vigueur.

En vous informant de ce qui précède, Monsieur, nous vous invitons en même temps d'en donner connaissance au Cabinet de St. James.

Recevez, &c.

No. 358.

Pro-memorid communicated to Earl Granville by M. de Hengelmüller, October 16.

THE Russian Government desire that, in the Military Convention to be concluded between the Ottoman and the Montenegrin Commanders, the frontier-line to the east of the Lake of Scutari, as traced in our Projet, should be included.

Baron Haymerle told Baron d'Oubril that, according to our opinion, we must first of all put Montenegro in possession of Dulcigno, and, in consequence, hasten the conclusion of the Military Convention between the Turkish and Montenegrin Commanders. To mix other questions up with it might lead to new tergiversations.

The transfer of Dulcigno once effected a Convention will have to be concluded with the Porte, in order to replace the Corti Memorandum by the Dulcigno arrangement.

18, *Belgrave Square, October* 16, 1880.

No. 359.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 179.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 16, 1880.

BARON HAYMERLE has answered a proposal of the Russian Government that the arrangement between the Turkish and Montenegrin authorities for the cession of Dulcigno should include one concerning the frontier east of the lake by at once declaring his entire disapproval of it.

He says that, as the Turkish authorities cannot have instructions upon that point, weeks would perhaps be lost before we could get the Porte to send them.

After the cession of Dulcigno is completed, an International Convention or Act will have to be concluded, substituting it for the Corti arrangement, which the Powers had sanctioned in that manner, and that, in his Excellency's opinion, will be the proper time for dealing with the rest of the frontier.

No. 360.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 180.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 16, 1880.

THE Prince of Montenegro has asked that officers from each of the allied fleets should assist at the Conference of the Turkish and Montenegrin Commissioners for arranging the cession.

Baron Haymerle has returned no answer, but he is not favourable to the proposal.

No. 361.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 16.)

(No. 312.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 16, 1880, 10 A.M.

WITH reference to the last paragraph in your telegram No. 683, Montenegrin Agent has not returned to Constantinople. Your Lordship's telegram No. 679 not yet received.

No. 362.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 16, 7·30 P.M.*)

(No. 314.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 16, 1880, 2 P.M.*

ST. JOHN will go to Smyrna on Wednesday to proceed in the Smyrna business, as stated to the Porte in my note of the 18th August, of which copy was sent to your Lordship.

I think your Lordship will consider that it is advisable to push this matter now, and that there are reasons why St. John's visit at this moment would be particularly opportune. I then propose to send Mr. St. John on to Samos with reference to your despatch No. 558, and with reference to some troublesome questions connected with the customs duties.

No. 363.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 16.*)

(No. 315.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 16, 1880.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 686, which has been twenty-eight hours on the road, the Porte [?] evidently intends its last proposal to refer only to territory west of the lake. Russia, as I just learnt from the Russian Ambassador, when it wishes to include the whole line of frontier in the Convention means distinctly to include the territory east of the lake. Thus the Porte would have a handle for delay and for the non-execution of its promise. Austria would also say this attempt to extend the promise of the Turks beyond what they meant had prevented the surrender of Dulcigno. I convinced Russian Ambassador by these arguments of the inexpediency of pressing his point. The main point must now be to secure the actual transfer of Dulcigno and to give the Porte no loophole for escape. I should wish to visit Ministers on Monday and to hold very strong language.

No. 364.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1880, 3 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 30 of the 13th.

You are authorized to be present at cession of territory if other Commissioners receive like authority.

No. 365.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 687.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1880, 5·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 309 of the 14th October, Her Majesty's Government agree that the Porte should be asked what progress has been made in arrangements for carrying out the promised cession of Dulcigno territory, and whether the Turkish Agent at Cettinjé has been instructed to make a communication respecting the cession to the Prince of Montenegro.

I have suggested to the other Governments to send instructions to above effect to their Representatives at Constantinople.

No. 366.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.**

(No. 817.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1880, 3·40 P.M.*

ASK the Government to which you are accredited to send instructions to their Representative at Constantinople in sense of telegram No. 687 to Mr. Goschen, repeated to you.

No. 367.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.†

(No. 688.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1880, 5·15 P.M.*

THE following communicated to me by Austrian Chargé d'Affaires :—

"The Russian Government having told the Austrian that they considered that the Military Convention between the Turkish and Montenegrin Commanders should include the frontier east of Lake Scutari, according to the Austrian tracing, the Austrian Government have replied that they consider Montenegro must first be put in possession of Dulcigno, and the conclusion of the Convention hastened accordingly. It might lead to fresh tergiversations if other questions were mixed up with it. The transfer of Dulcigno once effected, a Convention will have to be concluded with the Porte in order to replace the Corti Memorandum by the Dulcigno arrangement."

No. 368.

Earl Granville to Mr. Thomson.

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 16, 1880, 5·15 P.M.*

PORTE represents, through their Chargé d'Affaires here, that it is from Persian territory, where he has been a refugee for some years, that Sheikh Obeidullah's son is preparing a raid on Turkish territory, and that Porte has taken energetic military measures to maintain order.

No. 369.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 603. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 16, 1880.*

I HAVE telegraphed to you to-day that Her Majesty's Government concur in the proposal put forward in your Excellency's telegram No. 309 of the 14th, that the time has arrived for ascertaining from the Porte what progress has been made in the arrangements for carrying out the promised cession of Dulcigno and the adjacent territory, and whether the Ottoman Agent at the Court of the Prince of Montenegro has been instructed to make a communication on the subject to His Highness.

I have accordingly urged the other Powers to instruct their Representatives at Constantinople to address these inquiries to the Turkish Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* Also to Sir H. Elliot (No. 747), Lord Odo Russell (No. 697), Lord Lyons (No. 567), and Sir A. Paget (No. 741).

† Also to Mr. Plunkett (No. 818), Lord Odo Russell (No. 698), Sir H. Elliot (No. 748), Lord Lyons (No. 568), Mr. Macdonell (No. 742), Captain Sale (No. 35), and Mr. Kirby Green (No. 118).

No. 370.

*Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 1374. Extender.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1880.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires has made a communication to me to the following effect:—

That the Russian Government having informed that of Austria that they considered that the military Convention between the Turkish and Montenegrin Commanders should include the frontier east of Lake Scutari, according to the Austrian tracing, the Austrian Government have replied that they consider that Montenegro must first be put in possession of Dulcigno, and the conclusion of the Convention hastened accordingly; and that it might lead to fresh tergiversations if other questions were mixed up with it.

The Austrian Government added that, the transfer of Dulcigno once effected, a Convention would have to be concluded with the Porte in order to replace the Corti memorandum by the Dulcigno arrangement.

I am, &c,
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 371.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.†

(No. 1376. Extender.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1880.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of an instruction which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, directing him to inquire of the Porte what progress has been made in the arrangements for effecting the promised cession of the territory of Dulcigno.‡

Your Excellency will request the Government to which you are accredited to send instructions in the sense of this despatch to their Representative at Constantinople.

I have instructed you to this effect to-day by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 372.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 33. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 16, 1880.

I HAVE authorized you by telegraph to be present, as you suggest, on the occasion of the cession of territory to Montenegro, on the understanding that the Commissioners of other Powers receive similar authority.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 373.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 116.)
(Telegraphic.) , *October* 16, 1880.

BEDRI BEY arrived at 4 this afternoon at Rieka, and has sent to Montenegrin Government a communication from Riza Pasha, announcing to it that the said Bey has been appointed to enter into the Convention for the cession and evacuation of Dulcigno. The Pasha's letter adds that the Bey will await for twenty-four hours at Rieka the arrival of a [?] authorized Montenegrin functionary to conclude the Convention

* Also to Mr. Goschen (No. 604), Mr. Plunkett (No. 536), Lord Odo Russell (No. 677), Sir H. Elliot (No. 693), Mr. Macdonell (No. 572), and Mr. Kirby Green (No. 129).

† Also to Mr. Macdonell (No. 571A), Mr. Plunkett (No. 535), Lord Odo Russell (No. 676), Sir H. Elliot (No. 692).

‡ No. 369.

with him, and if one does not arrive in the delay mentioned his orders are to return to Scutari.

The Prince has appointed his Aide-de-camp, M. Nicolas Matanovic, as his Representative for the above purpose; and he will be at Rieka to-morrow morning at 8. [?] notice of this has been given by the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Turkish Minister here, who, however, most curiously abstains from taking any active share in the present proceedings.

Prince Nicholas has inquired of me why all the foreign Representatives have, under orders of their Governments, urged him not to raise difficulties. His Highness reiterates his assurances to me that he will facilitate matters to the utmost, but he admits fearing some hidden motive in the Bey's orders to carry out the necessary arrangements away from the Montenegrin capital.

(Sent to Admiral and Therapia.)

No. 374.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 316.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 16, 1880.

HAVE sent following figures to Mr. Green:—

"Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed Ambassadors that Montenegrins at Spuz and Podgoritza are preventing Albanians in that neighbourhood from emigrating, that they have imprisoned forty, and have seized Mussulman property, and otherwise oppressed Mussulmans. His Excellency stated that great excitement was thereby being caused among the Albanians generally, and the difficulty of persuading them to peaceable surrender of Dulcigno increased.

"Whatever motives one may assume to be animating Turks in making this communication, it is exceedingly important to leave them no pretext for evasion. Please inform Prince of complaints made, and ask for immediate inquiry and redress if due. If, as seems possible, Mussulmans at Podgoritza have been arrested on charge of making common cause with Albanians over the frontier, it might be wiser to set them free rather than afford a pretext for the allegation of fresh excitement.

"The Sultan also sent Musurus Pasha to me on the subject. You will see the importance of vigorous and immediate steps for clearing up the matter."

No. 375.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 317.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 17, 1880.

MY telegram No. 314 of yesterday has reference to the First Secretary of Embassy.

No. 376.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 116.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October* 17, 1880.

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs will send immediately to the French Ambassador at Constantinople instructions similar to those in your telegram No. 687 to Her Majesty's Ambassador about Dulcigno.

No. 377.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) *Buosich, October* 17, 1880.

I AM sending Lieutenant Caillard to Rieka, between Montenegro and Scutari, the meeting place of the Turkish and Montenegrin officers who are to arrange the Convention; if the Convention takes definite shape, I propose to be present at the execution of it.

No. 378.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 120.)
(Telegraphic.) , *October* 17, 1880.

FOLLOWING to Mr. Goschen, under No. 117 :—

"Your telegram of last night.

"Prince Nicholas tells me that twelve, and not forty, Mussulmans have been tried and condemned for conspiring with the Albanians against the safety of Podgoritza. Most of these men would, under any other Government, have long ago been hung; but His Highness has commuted all the sentences by more than half. Riza Pasha, when I was at Scutari, admitted to me the guilt of these Mussulmans.

"His Highness, yielding to most earnest representations on my part, has now specially authorized [?me] to inform Her Majesty's Government that he will generously pardon these persons, and permit them to leave the Principality, if they wish it, the moment Dulcigno and its district are peaceably surrendered to Montenegro.

"The expense of their trials must, however, be defrayed out of the personal property of the culprits.

"(Sent to Foreign Office.)"

No. 378*.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 605. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 17, 1880.

I AGREE with your Excellency as pointed out in your telegram No. 315 of yesterday, that the main point to be secured now from the Porte is the actual transfer of Dulcigno, and that to include the whole line of frontier to be ceded in the Convention which is about to be proposed, as desired by the Russian Ambassador, can only give an excuse to further delay on the part of the Turkish Government. I have accordingly telegraphed in this sense to your Excellency to-day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 379.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 635. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 11, 1880.

THE statement made by M. Jomini to Mr. Plunkett, reported in his telegram No. 193 of the 8th instant, that the Austro-Hungarian Government were aware, and did not disapprove, of the advance by Russia of 1,000,000 roubles to the Prince of Montenegro for the purchase of arms, does not appear to be absolutely accurate.

When I mentioned it to Baron Haymerle, he said that he was not aware of the circumstance, though he had expected that an advance, not however to so large an amount, would be made, and he took no exception to it.

Some months ago the Montenegrin Minister of War had told him of the wish of his Government to order 20,000 rifles, and had asked if he could guarantee to the contractors the amount of their cost.

He had answered that, with every desire to be of assistance to Montenegro, he could not, as Minister of a constitutional country and responsible Parliament, take upon him to give such a guarantee, upon which the Minister of War observed that he must try to get it from another quarter, which he presumed to mean Russia, but he had not since heard anything more on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 380.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 637. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 11, 1880.

WHEN I mentioned to Baron Haymerle that Mr. Green had reported his Austrian as well as his Russian colleagues to have advised the Prince of Montenegro to diminish his forces on the Albanian frontier from financial considerations, his Excellency expressed some surprise, and said that, as he had never hinted at the expediency of such a proceeding, he could hardly believe Colonel Thoemmel to have recommended it. He had not been particularly pleased when he learnt a week ago that the Prince had dismissed three or four of the battalions that had been collected in the direction of Dulcigno.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 381.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 640. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 12, 1880.

I THIS morning communicated to Baron Haymerle your Lordship's telegram of yesterday, inquiring whether, if the Porte offered such an insult to Europe as to break the engagement taken by it on Saturday, he would not reconsider the decision he had come to, and allow the Imperial ships to proceed to Smyrna with those of the other Powers which had consented to send theirs there.

His Excellency was not, however, to be moved from the resolution which I have already communicated to your Lordship, saying that public opinion in Austria and Hungary would not suffer him to go beyond what he had announced, or to incur the risk of the further contingencies that might be involved in the step proposed. He was already much blamed for having allowed himself, as was pretended, to be dragged on by Her Majesty's Government beyond what the interests of Austria required, and though this was altogether untrue (and he was prepared to justify every step he had taken as having been calculated to preserve peace), he could not let the obstinacy, or even the bad faith, of the Turkish Government induce him to abandon his position.

If the Porte now failed to act up to the promise given on Saturday, it would certainly be an insult offered to Europe, but it would not be the first, or even the greatest. The Sultan had promised that he would satisfactorily settle the question of the Montenegrin frontier if the Powers would hold their hands till the 3rd October, and upon their doing so he had answered by the monstrous note which conceded nothing, and left matters worse than before.

The Porte had, in fact, given abundant provocation which the Powers were entitled to resent, but he would not let the indignation, which he felt as strongly as your Lordship could, provoke him to join in measures which, however justifiable, might be dangerous to his country.

He again begged me to bear in mind the difference of the positions of Great Britain and Austria, and how the most vital interests of the latter might be involved in a war with Turkey, which would not be the case as regards England, and though he did not doubt the anxiety of Her Majesty's Government to avoid such an extremity, they might be justified in running some risk that did not seriously imperil their country, which it would be inexcusable in him to incur.

He believes, and he trusts that your Lordship will consider, that in formally accepting the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for the occupation of Smyrna by the allied fleet, he keeps the European concert intact, even though he abstains from himself taking active part in the measures.

With regard to your Lordship's request that he would instruct the Austro-Hungarian Consul at Smyrna to co-operate with Her Majesty's naval officers, and that he would join in a collective representation to the Porte, Baron Haymerle said that he hoped to be able to give the Consul instructions which would fully satisfy you, though he could not, of course, place him entirely under the direction of the Admiral; but he greatly doubted whether, at this moment, any good was to be expected from a fresh collective representation to the Turkish Government.

Finding that his Excellency was not to be moved into sending the Austrian ships to Smyrna, I asked him, in the name of Her Majesty's Government, whether he would not consent to constitute the Powers who agreed to do so the *mandataires* of Europe, to the same extent as in the case of the occupation of the Lebanon in 1860.

I had put the same question to him on my own account immediately on his informing me of his decision not to join in the Smyrna demonstration, and though he had answered negatively, it was with sufficient hesitation to make me hope that he might comply with the request when it came officially from Her Majesty's Government; but upon this occasion his refusal was unequivocal, and he argued that he could not give a *mandat* to others which he declined to intrust to one of the Imperial Commanders.

I pointed out that by consenting to the other Powers being invested with the character of European *mandataires* he would greatly add to the moral weight of the demonstration, while entirely avoiding the risk that he dreaded of being drawn into the further steps which the others might think necessary if the Porte continued unyielding, but he remained firm by his decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 382.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 643. Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 12, 1880.

A TELEGRAM was received this morning from Baron Calice, stating that he understood that the expected note from the Porte would promise the immediate abandonment of Dulcigno, but will not engage that it shall be handed over to Montenegro.

Baron Haymerle considers the distinction between a promise to "céder" and one to "remettre" as very great, and as it was the latter which the Powers had been led to expect on Saturday, he immediately dispatched a very strongly worded telegram to Baron Calice, pointing it out, and directing him solemnly to warn the Sultan that, if he did not loyally and fully carry out his engagement, he would expose himself to the greatest danger, from which he need expect protection from no one; that His Majesty was deluding himself if he supposed that there was any difference among the Powers; and he must not imagine that his danger would be diminished if some of them abstained from taking an active part in any particular measure which would be carried out by the others in their absence.

As the Ambassador had stated that he was invited to dine with the Sultan to-day, Baron Haymerle directed that the above telegram should be sent after him to the Palace if he had already gone there, so that the opportunity of at once communicating it to His Majesty should not be lost.

His Excellency observed to me that, even if Dulcigno was not formally made over to the Montenegrins by the Porte, he thought that, under the understanding upon which the naval demonstation had been based, the Prince was bound to attempt its occupation upon the withdrawal of the Turkish troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 383.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 644. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 12, 1880.

IN the course of conversation to-day, Baron Haymerle took occasion to assure me that he had not tried in the slightest degree to influence any other Government with respect to the manner in which they should respond to your Lordship's proposal for transferring the naval demonstration from the Adriatic to Smyrna.

He had come to his decision without communication with any other Government.

When the demonstration before Dulcigno was first proposed, he had been so much impressed by the thought of the serious position in which the Powers might be placed if

it should fail to secure the wished-for result, that he had been obliged to give it very serious consideration before agreeing to it, but, when he had once decided upon doing so, he had done more than was probably suspected to make the acceptance of it unanimous.

I asked whether he meant me to understand the German Government to have been indisposed to agree.

He replied that it had been so, and that Prince Bismarck was most unwilling to give his consent, saying that he could not advise his Emperor to employ his forces in a matter of so little direct interest to his Empire, but his (Baron Haymerle's) arguments had prevailed, and he felt a satisfaction in thinking that he had contributed materially to further the wishes of Her Majesty's Government.

I need not ask your Lordship to regard this conversation as very confidential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 384.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 647. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 13, 1880.

YOUR Lordship directed me to endeavour to let you know the opinion of the Austro-Hungarian Government upon the Turkish note as soon as possible after they became acquainted with it.

It reached them last night, and they consider that the mention of the cession of Dulcigno alone, without allusion to the rest of the territory, and the doubt left as to the points to be settled by the Convention, renders it open to some suspicion; but it is, nevertheless, more satisfactory than they had ventured to hope, and they think that the Powers must endeavour to make the most of it.

They entirely agree with your Lordship in considering that the allied fleet should not for the moment quit Cattaro, as they regard it as essential that the ships should remain there, or in the neighbourhood, till the Montenegrins are in possession of the district to be ceded, and this opinion has already been communicated to the Turkish Ambassador, who had asked whether, in consequence of the assurance given by his Government, the demonstration would not at once cease.

He was told that the words of the Porte must become facts before the Powers could come to any decision.

With respect to the Convention to be made between the Porte and Montenegro, the Imperial Government think that, as the Turkish Government hope that the demonstration will now come to an end, it would not be advisable for the Admiral to be engaged in its negotiation.

They are not sure whether it could conveniently be carried on at Constantinople, as it is believed that the Montenegrin Agent, who was recalled some time ago, has not returned there, but they will, I think, support any course with reference to it that your Lordship may think best, and in the meantime they will send instructions to the Austrian Minister at Cettinje, similar to those that have been given to Mr. Green, directing him to urge the Prince not to raise difficulties with regard to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 385.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 649.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October* 14, 1880.

AT the close of last week the news of the projected occupation of Smyrna produced an extraordinary consternation at Vienna, and although it was known that Austria did not intend to furnish a contingent of ships, a perfect panic took possession of the Exchange, and public securities of every kind fell many points.

The announcement of the declaration of the Turkish Government that Dulcigno would at once be surrendered was consequently hailed with indescribable satisfaction, and comparative confidence is already restored; but the exhibition of the alarm that

has been displayed at the prospect of energetic measures of coercion being adopted towards Turkey, can hardly fail to have a tendency to render the Imperial Government more cautious than ever before they associate themselves in any material pressure for the settlement of the other questions remaining to be dealt with after that of the Montenegrin frontier is disposed of.

A remark made to me by Baron Haymerle before the Smyrna occupation was spoken of showed that his mind was already being influenced in the manner I have indicated by the obstinacy of the Porte.

He then observed that the determination with which Turkey resisted compliance with the demands for the fulfilment of her solemn engagements upon a matter of so little importance as the amount of territory to be given up to Montenegro, showed the prudence that would be required in proceeding with a question of such magnitude as that of the Greek frontier, with respect to which it could not be alleged that the Porte lay under such a distinct pledge as that which it had taken in regard to the other frontier.

I have no doubt whatever of the Austro-Hungarian Government continuing loyally to support the frontier-line agreed upon at the Berlin Conference; not only because they are pledged to do so by their concurrence in the Award, but because they regard the extension of Greece as desirable in the interests of this Empire, but the fear that a too violent pressure on Turkey would be met with determination, and would lead to insurrectionary movements, will be a consideration by which they will be much guided.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 386.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 471.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 11, 1880.*

ON receiving your Lordship's despatch No. 648, Very Confidential, of the 7th instant, I communicated to Count Limburg Stirum the proposed draft of instructions to Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, which Count Stirum said should be sent at once to Prince Bismarck at Friedrichsruhe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 387.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 472.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 11, 1880.*

I WAS unable to see the Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday, so I wrote a private note to his Excellency, saying that Her Majesty's Government would be glad to ascertain whether the German Government would consent to constitute the Powers whose ships might appear at Smyrna the mandatories of Europe to the same extent as was done at the time the occupation of the Lebanon was under discussion, and also whether the German Consul would be instructed to co-operate with our naval authorities at Smyrna, and the German Government join in a collective representation to the Porte.

Count Limburg Stirum, in acknowledging the receipt of my private message, which your Lordship had already communicated through Baron von Brincken to his Excellency, observes that, in view of the Sultan's offer to give up Dulcigno announced from Constantinople, it will be as well to wait for details before taking any further decision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 388.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 473. Secret.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 12, 1880.*

SINCE writing my despatch No. 455 of the 2nd instant to your Lordship, on the subject of Prince Bismarck's reports to the Emperor on foreign affairs, I hear that His Majesty received on Saturday last at Baden a further Report from the Chancellor, in which his Highness apprises the Emperor that it will now be advisable for Germany gradually to assume a more neutral policy in regard to Eastern affairs, so as to avoid being drawn "beyond her depth into Turkish waters" by England, Russia, and Italy.

In his opinion the proposed occupation of Smyrna might fail to have the desired effect on the Sultan, whilst the sequestration of the customs would scarcely be felt by a Government which is accustomed to be always in want of money.

If the Smyrna demonstration failed, England, Russia, and Italy might feel bound to attempt a third demonstration at Constantinople, which would offer no great difficulty, but which might lead to very grave consequences, such as a fanatical outburst against the Christian residents of Turkey, which the fleets anchored in the Sea of Marmora would be powerless to prevent.

Under such circumstances, Germany would realize the benefit of abstention and the advantages which a neutral and independent attitude could afford in the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 389.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 474.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 13, 1880.*

IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions of last night, I communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of Mr. Goschen's telegram of the 11th instant, and called his Excellency's attention to the passage in which Her Majesty's Ambassador says that a firm front would decide the question in favour of concession.

Count Limburg Stirum said that the information received from the German Ambassador confirmed Mr. Goschen's view, and that there was every reason to hope that the Sultan was about to yield and settle the question by ceding Dulcigno peaceably to Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 390.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 476. Extender.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 14, 1880.*

ON receiving your Lordship's message of the 12th instant, I informed the Minister for Foreign Affairs that in view of the critical situation at Constantinople and Montenegro, Her Majesty's Government were of opinion that the fleets should be retained at Cattaro until further orders, and to-day Count Limburg Stirum did me the honour to call at the Embassy, and to tell me in reply that the German Government concurred in that opinion, and would send instructions accordingly to Cattaro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 391.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 328. Political.)

My Lord, *"Helicon," Teodo Bay, October 14, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday, immediately on my arrival from Cettinjé, I placed myself in communication with Sir Beauchamp Seymour, and that he kindly invited me to be his guest, and furnished me with quarters on board this vessel.

The Admiral and Captain Sale having informed me of the present position of affairs, I told them that I had received, just before leaving Cettinjé, your Lordship's repetition of Mr. Goschen's telegram of the day before yesterday on the Porte's note concerning the surrender of Dulcigno and its district, and that I had, consequently, called on Voïvoda Radonich and requested him to inform the Prince of the state of affairs, and to urge His Highness most strongly, on my behalf, not to raise any difficulties about details when he receives an announcement from the Turkish authorities that they are prepared to make arrangements to carry out the surrender.

I further told M. Radonich that I should, in any case, be back again at Cettinjé after forty-eight hours.

I then gave Sir Beauchamp Seymour and Captain Sale the substance of conversations lately held by me with Prince Nicholas regarding the renewed prospects of a peaceable settlement of affairs, and resulting in a repetition of His Highness's assurances that he would be entirely guided by the wishes of Her Majesty's Government. Both the Admiral and Captain Sale considered the suggestion which the Prince had made to me for some of the Boundary Commissioners to be present at the Turkish and Montenegrin military head-quarters whilst the arrangements are being agreed upon and executed by the two parties, as sufficiently fair to be communicated to Her Majesty's Government in their telegrams of last night; but, as I have already reported, if this should not be practicable, the Prince has promised me to submit himself to the wishes of the Powers.

I cannot, however, help sharing in some of His Highness's fears that the Turks may be still disposed to resort to some of those subterfuges for raising obstacles,—not to say, some of those acts of bad faith,—which have been the salient feature of the present Albano-Montenegrin frontier question, and I would venture to most strongly urge, if circumstances still allow, that the Porte should be distinctly informed that the European Governments, knowing the power the Turkish authorities possess to prevent any interference by the Albanians in the Dulcigno district, the responsibility of such interference will infallibly be made to rest with the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 392.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 28. Political.)

My Lord, *"Alexandra," Bucchi, Cattaro, October 14, 1880.*

REFERRING to your Lordship's telegram No. 30 of the 12th October, 1880, I have the honour to remark that there is no Montenegrin Agent at present in Constantinople, and therefore it would be difficult for the Prince of Montenegro to authorize any one to settle the conditions of the Convention for the cession of the Dulcigno district in conference with the Ambassadors.

But the Montenegrins could readily be placed in communication with the Turkish local authorities through the Turkish Envoy now at Cettinjé.

The directions given by your Lordship in the same telegram have been acted upon. The Prince has been informed of the contents of the Turkish note therein quoted, and has been urged to allow no obstacle or pretension to interfere with the prompt conclusion of a Convention with the Turkish local authorities.

But until the Turkish Envoy at Cettinjé notifies to the Prince the desire of the Porte to frame this Convention, it is hardly likely that the Prince will take any step.

Hence it would seem particularly desirable that the Porte should be urged to communicate to the Prince through their Representative at Cettinjé their readiness to hand over the district in question, and their wish to frame a Convention for that purpose with the Montenegrin authorities.

I would add that up to the present nothing has occurred here to show that the professed willingness to cede Dulcigno is anything more than a device to gain time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. T. SALE.

No. 393.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, October 18.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Sublime Porte, le 7 Octobre, 1880.*

J'AI pris connaissance de vos deux Rapports du 2 Septembre, contenant les comptes-rendus des interpellations qui ont eu lieu à la Chambre des Communes relativement au journal le "Peik-i-Islam," et aux chemins de fer Asiatiques.

Tout en vous remerciant de ces communications, je ne puis m'empêcher de vous exprimer mon regret sur la réponse pleine de réticences que Sir C. Dilke a cru devoir faire à propos du "Peik-i-Islam." Nous aurions été heureux de voir M. le Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat apprécier ouvertement notre conduite loyale. Nous maintenons notre déclaration absolument vraie, et nous ne retranchons rien de ce que nous avons approuvé à ce sujet.

Recevez, &c.

(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 394.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, October 18.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Sublime Porte, le 7 Octobre, 1880.*

J'AI pris connaissance de vos deux Rapports du 2 de ce mois, ayant pour annexes les comptes-rendus des déclarations faites au Parlement dans les séances du 30 et 31 Août par Lord Granville et le Marquis de Hartington sur l'état actuel des affaires de notre pays.

Par la lecture de ce double compte-rendu nous avons remarqué, non sans peine, chez des hauts personnages officiels des appréciations peu justes en ce qui concerne l'attitude de la Sublime Porte.

On semblerait en effet motiver la décision prise au sujet de la démonstration navale par le manque seul de bonne volonté de notre part, tandis que le Gouvernement n'a eu en vue, dès le début, que de résoudre la question sans mettre en conflit les intérêts divergents qui sont en cause.

Cette pensée se dégage invariablement de nos communications multiples, et rien en trahit chez nous la moindre inconséquence, comme on veut bien l'avancer.

Recevez, &c.

(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 395.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, October 18.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Sublime Porte, le 7 Octobre, 1880.*

J'AI pris connaissance de votre Rapport du 7 Septembre, ayant pour annexe le compte-rendu de l'interpellation qui a eu lieu le 4 du même mois à la Chambre des Communes relativement à l'emploi éventuel de mesures coercitives en Turquie.

La réponse du Ministre nous a péniblement surpris, car elle semblerait nous donner lieu à penser que nous serions à jamais frustrés des avantages de la politique traditionnelle toute de sagesse et de prévoyance de la Grande Bretagne, politique qui nous était si précieuse, et qui contribuait puissamment à écarter les malentendus, les complications en Orient, et à y consolider ainsi la paix si vivement désirée.

Recevez, &c.

(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 396.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, October 18.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Sublime Porte, le 7 Octobre*, 1880.

J'AI pris connaissance du Rapport que vous avez adressé à mon prédécesseur le 4 Septembre, pour lui transmettre le compte-rendu de l'interpellation qui a eu lieu le 2 du même mois à la Chambre des Communes au sujet de la démonstration navale projetée en Turquie.

Nous avons lu avec toute l'attention qu'ils méritent les discours prononcés à cette occasion par Lord Hartington et par Sir C. Dilke, mais il nous est impossible d'y trouver la moindre preuve comme quoi la coercion armée est le meilleur moyen d'arriver au but que la Grande Bretagne désire assurer, et qui consiste, d'après M. le Ministre des Indes, à fortifier la Turquie. Pour notre part, nous avons de la peine à comprendre comment on entend préserver la paix par une action qui semblerait plutôt devoir amener de plus grandes complications. Dans la perplexité où nous nous trouvons à ce sujet, nous serions heureux de voir cette démonstration une fois pour toutes écartée, démonstration qui, à notre avis, ne saurait avoir sa raison d'être, et qui serait, au contraire, de nature à amener des résultats que les Cabinets, animés de dispositions sincèrement pacifiques, tiennent certainement à prévenir.

En terminant, je dois repousser le reproche que l'on nous adresse de manquer à nos engagements.

Lorsque les Puissances nous eurent proposé la cession de Dulcigno, la Sublime Porte y a consenti d'une manière très-distincte et à des conditions très-explicites. Depuis, notre point de vue n'a nullement varié, et nous persistons à croire, malgré l'opinion émise par Sir C. Dilke, que les meilleures notions géographiques sont celles qui tiennent compte des possibilités pratiques.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 397.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, October 18.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Sublime Porte, le 7 Octobre*, 1880.

L'ATTENTION de la Sublime Porte a été attirée sur un discours que le Prince de Bulgarie a prononcé lors de son dernier séjour à Varna, à l'occasion de la réception d'une députation soi-disant Bulgaro-Macédonienne. On a remarqué, entre autres, les paroles suivantes de Son Altesse :—

"Je consacrerai tous mes efforts pour arriver à satisfaire les justes aspirations des Provinces Macédoniennes, que je considère, dès à présent, comme faisant partie intégrante de ma Principauté."

Ce langage révèle des projets faits pour semer le trouble et l'agitation dans les provinces voisines de la Bulgarie. Les Puissances qui sont sincèrement désireuses de maintenir la paix ne sauraient trop réagir contre des velléités de cette nature.

Je vous prie de faire part de ces observations à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique. Nous sommes dans la conviction que sa Seigneurie voudra bien en reconnaître la justesse, et convenir avec nous qu'il appartient aux Gouvernements Signataires du Traité de Berlin de faire parvenir à Sofia des conseils efficaces.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 398.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, October 18.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Constantinople, le 7 Octobre*, 1880.

POUR faire suite aux précédentes communications de mon Département, j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, copie d'un Rapport que je viens de recevoir relativement aux armements poursuivis par la Bulgarie, et à quelques nouveaux actes barbares dont les Musulmans de la Principauté ont été l'objet.

Je vous prie de signaler les faits contenus dans cette pièce à la plus sérieuse attention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

Inclosure in No. 398.

Report.

COMME j'ai l'honneur de le signaler déjà dans mes précédents rapports, l'attitude de la Principauté Bulgare devient de plus en plus menaçante pour le Gouvernement Impérial.

En effet, les préparatifs militaires se poursuivent très-activement. On annonce l'arrivée d'une grande quantité d'armes et de munitions par le Danube. Le Vice-Consul Anglais, de retour d'un voyage qu'il a fait à Bourgas, nous a signalé l'arrivée d'un grand nombre d'officiers Russes en cette ville.

Le 15 courant, le bateau Russe venant d'Odessa, a débarqué à Varna sept officiers Russes avec leur ordonnance. Le lendemain de leur arrivée, quatre de ces officiers étaient habillés en civil. Ils se dirigent tous, au fur et à mesure qu'ils arrivent, vers les Balkans.

L'opinion unanime des Consuls est que très-prochainement, c'est-à-dire vers la fin du mois d'Octobre, la Bulgarie lèvera l'étendard de la révolte contre l'autorité suzeraine.

L'oppression contre les Musulmans continue plus que jamais. Des individus jetés en prison sous une accusation quelconque y pourrissent depuis des mois, attendant éternellement leur jugement. Amendes, emprisonnements, bastonnade, tel est le terrorisme qui règne actuellement en Bulgarie.

Les habitants du village de Foundoucly, situé dans le district de Bazardjik, viennent d'être frappés de 37,500 piastres d'amende. Les pauvres villageois ont vendu leurs bestiaux et instruments aratoires pour effectuer la somme nécessaire au paiement de cette amende. Au dire du Moukhtar du dit village, qui vint me donner ces renseignements, la vente n'ayant pu produire que 31,600, les habitants se proposeraient de vendre leurs effets et ustensiles de cuisine pour payer le reste.

A l'occasion de l'anniversaire de la naissance du Prince, l'auguste Souverain de la Bulgarie (tel est le titre accordé officiellement au Prince), les Musulmans furent obligés, à coups de bâton, à fermer leurs boutiques. Plusieurs même d'entre eux furent emprisonnés pour ce crime de lèse-majesté.

No. 399.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, October 18.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 17 Octobre*, 1880.

JE viens de transmettre par télégraphe à notre Ministre à Cettigné la dépêche protestative suivante qui devra être communiquée au Gouvernement du Monténégro :—

"Par une requête adressée aux autorités Impériales de Scutari par les foulés de pouvoir des émigrés de Podgoritza, ces derniers exposent que les autorités Monténégrines ont saisi, contrairement aux Traités, les revenus des propriétés appartenant aux émigrés de Podgoritza, de Spoutz, et de Zabliak ; qu'elles exercent toutes sortes de vexations et d'outrages à l'égard de la population composant plusieurs centaines de maisons et qui doivent rester pendant trois ans encore dans les localités en question en conservant la nationalité Ottomane ; qu'elles ont enfin fermé tous les passages (?) et emprisonné depuis quarante jours une quarantaine d'individus. Les pétitionnaires demandent en conséquence qu'il soit mis un terme à ces actes de violence et qu'on lève tous les obstacles contre ceux des habitants qui voudraient émigrer.

"Les rapports des autorités Impériales de Scutari confirment les assertions de la requête précitée.

"Des procédés si injustifiables à l'encontre de ces malheureux émigrés et habitants ne laissent pas que de produire une vive irritation parmi leurs compatriotes en général et pourraient donner lieu à des événements fâcheux et imprévus qu'il est de l'intérêt commun de prévenir, surtout dans les circonstances actuelles.

"Le Gouvernement Ottoman croit donc devoir protester contre les actes illégaux qui

viennent d'être mentionnés et qui constituent une violation manifeste des stipulations du Traité de Berlin ; et tout en se refusant à croire que le Gouvernement Monténégrin veuille tolérer la conduite de ses agents dans cette circonstance, il déclare n'assumer aucune responsabilité des conséquences qui pourraient en résulter.

"Vous voudrez bien remettre au Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Prince Nicholas une copie de la présente dépêche qui a été déjà communiquée verbalement aux Représentants des six Puissances à Constantinople."

Je vous prie de vous énoncer dans le sens qui précède auprès de M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et de signaler à la sérieuse attention de son Excellence toute la portée des actes répréhensibles en question des autorités Monténégrines, actes qui ne tendent à rien moins qu'à provoquer une agitation et des complications dangereuses.

No. 400.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received October* 18.)

(Confidential.)
My Lord, *Admiralty, October* 17, 1880.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, dated 17th October, from Baosic.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 400.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *Baosic, October* 17, 1880, 12·40 P.M.

TURKISH and Montenegrin officers meet this morning at a place between Cettinjé and Scutari for preliminary conference.

Lieutenant Caillard will leave to-morrow to report their proceedings.

French and Italian Chargé d'Affaires ordered to meeting.

No. 401.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 182.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 17, 1880.

RUSSIAN Ambassador has been instructed to inform Baron Haymerle that as the object of the Russian Government, in proposing that the frontier east of the lake should be included in the arrangement between the Turkish and Montenegrin Commanders, will be attained by it being settled in the Convention suggested by him to be hereafter substituted for the Corti arrangement, they are quite willing to leave it to be treated in that manner.

No. 402.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 117.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October* 17, 1880.

COURCEL spoke to Dilke to-day as follows:—

"Russia is doing all in her power to prevent the settlement of the Dulcigno question. She has proposed to us to join in sending out a Military Commissioner to examine once more the proposed frontier. This is a snare. The Russians hope that this proposal may be met by a counter-proposal to examine the frontier by means of officers on the spot. Only England has any army officers there. The other Powers would be driven to employ naval officers from the fleet, upon which the Turks would at once declare that coercion was being used, and the arrangement would once more break down."

No. 403.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 204.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 17, 1880.

IT was known more than a month ago that the Czarewitch and his family would go to Livadia about this time.

I believe the rumours which are now based on this visit are not true. All that I can learn proves that the Emperor, who was seriously ill on his first arrival in the Crimea, is now in his usual health.

No. 404.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 121.)
(Telegraphic.) , *October* 17, 1880.

FOLLOWING is a summary of the Convention proposed this morning by the Turkish to the Montenegrin Delegate:—

1. To acknowledge the *status quo* frontier to the north of Lake of Scutari.

2. To protect lives, property, &c., of those who do not quit ceded territory with Ottoman troops, as also all property, in compliance with the Treaty of Berlin.

3. Estimate of Government real property, and manner of its administration, and that of mosque property, to be, as well as Montenegrin share of Turkish public debt, a matter for arrangement hereafter between the two Governments.

4. Montenegrin Government to acknowledge as binding past acts of Ottoman Tribunals and authorities in the ceded localities.

5. Vessels belonging to inhabitants of Dulcigno who do not quit the Principality to be entitled to fly the Ottoman flag for three years from date of Convention. During these three years, if such vessels are sold to Ottomans, or become in part owned by Ottomans, the vessels shall be entitled for always to the Ottoman flag.

6. Departure of inhabitants desiring to quit Principality to be facilitated by Montenegrin Government.

7. Stores of arms and ammunition left in the ceded district, or which may have remained in possession of inhabitants, to be taken charge of by the Montenegrin Government and given up to the Turkish authorities on application.

Montenegrin Delegate, in answer to these proposals, replied that he had only orders to come to an understanding on the technical arrangement as to effecting the transfer, and that he could not discuss matters quite beyond his attributions.

Turkish Delegate demanded besides the Convention a declaration should be added or annexed to it at the same time as the signature of the Convention establishing the entry into possession of the district by Montenegro.

This declaration to state that the cession of the district of Dulcigno in accordance with the English line had been effected three days after date of the Convention, and after retirement of the civil and military Turkish authorities.

Turkish Delegate lastly proposed that another declaration should be delivered at the same time to him by the Montenegrin Delegate, acknowledging the cession of the district in question, in conformity with the frontier proposed by the Powers and accepted by the Porte.

I will telegraph later the action which the Montenegrin Government intends to follow, and which will be conciliatory.

(Sent to Admiral and Therapia.)

No. 405.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 18.)

(No. 122.)
(Telegraphic.) , *October* 17, 1880.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 119 of yesterday, I was not aware that it was wished that Prince Nicholas should be advised to send back his Chargé d'Affaires to Constantinople. His withdrawal meant to signify that His Highness left Montenegrin case in the hands of the Ambassador.

(Sent to Mr. Goschen.)

No. 406.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 123.)
(Telegraphic.) , *October* 17, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 121, Montenegrin Government will instruct its Delegate to accept all but the first and fifth stipulations.

The first, it explains, it is not competent to touch, as the Ambassadors at Constantinople have charge of the treatment of this question with the Porte.

The fifth it is prevented from entertaining by terms of Article No. XXIX of Treaty of Berlin.

As to declarations proposed by Turkish Delegate to be signed at the same time as the Convention, the Montenegrin Government will not refuse them provided they are accompanied by a rider to the effect that they can be only considered as matured after the peaceable surrender of the described localities.

(Sent to Admiral and Constantinople.)

No. 407.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 124.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October* 18, 1880.

FROM most trustworthy informa[tion ? ant] from Scutari, I learn that Riza Pasha has done absolutely nothing to secure peaceful surrender of Dulcigno. I have also reason to know that in Turkish quarters it was expected Bedri Bey's [?] would be rejected at once by Montenegro.

(Sent to Admiral and Therapia.)

No. 408.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18, 7 P.M.)

(No. 125.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October* 18, 1880, 11·30 A.M.

PRINCE NICHOLAS has just read to my colleagues and me a long report received during the night from his Delegate at Rieka, giving the result of a meeting with Bedri Bey, when he communicated to him the Montenegrin suggestions concerning the Convention in the sense of my telegram No. 123.

The Bey, when he understood that the Montenegrin Government expects a "remise" of the town and district, explained that nothing of the sort was contemplated, and that the Montenegrins were not to advance into the ceded district until three hours after the Turkish troops and authorities had gained their new frontier. The Turkish Government was prepared to cede, but not to deliver over, and would not be responsible for anything that might occur when once its troops had left; and the Bey added verbally that he quite expected that the Montenegrins would be resisted by the natives.

Although the Montenegrin Delegate has said that he is prepared to continue the negotiations, the Bey has announced that he must return to Scutari to confer with Riza Pasha.

Prince Nicholas believes that the Powers can never have had the intention of [?] with the Porte's view of forcing him to fight the Albanians with even the support of the combined fleet.

I hope to add [?] eventually a Montenegrin statement on the above.

(Sent to Admiral and Therapia.)

No. 409.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18, 10·26 P.M.)

(No. 126.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October* 18, 1880, 8 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 125 of this day, I have now received the note from the Montenegrin Government. As it principally recapitulates the proceedings of the last two days, already sent by me, I abstain from telegraphing it. Note concludes, however, with the declaration that Montenegro cannot expose itself to meet again difficulties similar to those encountered in the spring at Tusi; that owing to the nature of the valley now to be traversed, and the state of exasperation of the Montenegrins, conflicts could not be prevented; and that therefore, to avoid greater complications, Prince's Government imposes upon itself the duty to demand the regular and peaceable delivery of the town and district of Dulcigno.

(Sent to Constantinople and Admiral.)

No. 410.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18, 5 P.M.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October* 18, 1880, 12·15 P.M.

KING and Queen of Hellenes, with Royal family, arrived at Athens yesterday evening, and were received with great enthusiasm.

No. 411.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October* 18, 1880.

FRENCH Admiral with his flag-ship returned to Piræus from Tunis yesterday.

No. 412.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 18, 2 P.M.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October* 18, 1880, 1 P.M.

INSTRUCTIONS have been sent to Count Corti in compliance with your Lordship's No. 740.

No. 413.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 759.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1880, 6·15 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 179, we concur in Austrian answer to Russian proposal for including frontier east of lake in arrangement for cession of Dulcigno.

No. 414.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 760.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1880, 6·15 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 180, Captain Sale has been authorized to be present as Boundary Commissioner at Conference of Turkish and Montenegrin Commissioners, if other Commissioners attend.

No. 415.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.[a]

(No. 700.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1880, 7 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Chargé d'Affaires states that Austrian Consul-General at Scutari reports that Riza Pasha has withdrawn from Dulcigno all munition except fifty boxes, which he has buried; that there are now only 300 Albanians from Scutari there, and that Riza Pasha says he is confident inhabitants will not oppose cession.

No. 416.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 18, 8 P.M.)

(No. 205.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 18, 1880, 6 P.M.

I TOLD M. Jomini substance of your telegram No. 820, and urged that the Russian Government also should impress on Prince of Montenegro importance of his not giving Sultan any pretext for delay.

M. Jomini said he would suggest to M. de Giers to recommend Prince to be prudent.

As I was coming away I met Turkish Ambassador, who told me he had come to complain of these illegal arrests made by the Prince of Montenegro.

No. 417.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 606. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1880.

I HAVE telegraphed to-day my approval of your Excellency's proposal to send Mr. St. John, First Secretary of Her Majesty's Embassy, to Smyrna and Samos, to endeavour to arrange the questions which have arisen at those places.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 418.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 694. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1880.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 179 of the 16th instant, and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government concur in the answer returned by Baron Haymerle to the proposal of the Russian Government, that the arrangement between the Turkish and Montenegrin authorities for the cession of Dulcigno should include one relating to the frontier east of the Lake of Scutari.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 419.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 695. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1880.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 180 of the 16th instant, I have to state to your Excellency that Captain Sale has been authorized by Her Majesty's Government to be present as Boundary Commissioner at the conference of the Turkish and Montenegrin Commissioners for arranging the cession of Dulcigno, provided the Commissioners of the other Powers receive a like authority.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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[a] Also to Mr. Plunkett (No. 832), Lord Lyons (No. 582), Mr. Macdonell (No. 758), Sir H. Elliot (No. 761), Lord Odo Russell (No. 714), Mr. Kirby Green (No. 120), and Captain Sale (No. 36), for Admiral.

No. 420.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.[a]

(No. 1284. Extender.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1880.

I HAVE been informed by the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires at this Court that the Austrian Consul-General at Scutari has reported that Riza Pasha has withdrawn from Dulcigno all munitions, with the exception of fifty boxes, which he has buried; that there are now only 300 Albanians from Scutari there; and that Riza Pasha states that he is confident that the inhabitants of Dulcigno will not oppose its cession to the Montenegrins.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 421.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 573.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 18, 1880.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 435, Confidential, of the 23rd ultimo, I have to request that you will express to the Italian Government the satisfaction of Her Majesty's Government at the assurance given to you by Count Maffei that they might rely on the joint action of Italy, even if coercive measures were necessary, with regard to the Montenegrin question. I have also to convey to you the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the language which you held to Count Maffei, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 422.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 297. Extender. Secret.)
My Lord, *Athens, September* 29, 1880.

AT the interview with M. Tricoupi to-day, he informed me that M. Gambetta had advised the Government of this country to continue their preparation quietly, and had said that they might be sure the provinces would be made over to them without much delay.

M. Gambetta, however, made no statement as to the manner in which this result was to be effected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 423.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 301. Extender.)
My Lord, *Athens, September* 30, 1880.

THE Greek Government have received a despatch from their Representative at Paris, reporting that the French Minister for Foreign Affairs had given him an assurance of the warm interest taken by France in the affairs of this country, and of the determination of the former not to separate herself from the concerted action of the European Powers. The present position, however, of the new Ministry compelled France to maintain an attitude of reserve, and she could not undertake a war without obtaining the consent of the Chambers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

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[a] Also to Mr. Goschen (No. 607), Mr. Plunkett (No. 837), Mr. Macdonell (No. 674), Sir H. Elliot (No. 696), Lord Odo Russell (No. 679), and Mr. Kirby Green (No. 130).

No. 424.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 305. Extender.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 4, 1880.*

NEWS has reached this Government that the Porte has demanded, as a condition of the arrangement of the Montenegrin difficulty, that the settlement of the Greek Frontier question should be postponed for a period of two or three months.

M. Tricoupi informed me to-day that he had no doubt it was the intention of the Porte to drain the finances of this country by compelling her to keep up an army of considerable numbers during the winter months.

He added, however, that should the Porte show no disposition to hand over the provinces to Greece, it would be impossible for him, once the army was sufficiently drilled, to restrain the country from assuming the offensive, and endeavouring to acquire possession of Thessaly and Epirus by force of arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 425.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 307.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 6, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 37 of the 5th instant relative to the supposed intention of the Greeks to act at once in order to gain possession of the line accorded to them at the Conference of Berlin, I have the honour to report that I have not observed any excitement on the part of the Greeks at this moment, or any disposition to press the Government to take immediate action in the matter of the new frontier.

They are well aware that at this moment they are quite unprepared to take the offensive with any chance of success. It is certain, however, that if, when the army has been organized and they are in possession, for the first time in their history, of a force respectable in numbers, discipline, and organization, the provinces have not been made over to them, the country would demand that it should be employed in taking possession by force of the territory which they consider has been accorded to Greece by Europe.

With reference to this subject M. Tricoupi has told me emphatically that, no matter what Minister might then be at the head of the Government, he would be obliged, and, indeed, would require no compulsion to enter on an offensive course; otherwise it would be impossible to justify the sacrifices which the country had been called upon to make, and was now making, but that no date could be fixed for the moment when an action would commence, which, of course, depends upon the course of events, and the result of the measures which Greece hopes and expects the Great Powers will take in order to carry out the award of the Berlin Conference.

About two months ago my Russian colleague, M. de Danzas, expressed to me the opinion that the Greeks were about to, as he said, "brûler leurs vaisseaux," and advance at once into Epirus and Thessaly.

He said he had inferred this from a conversation he had had with a member of the Government, whom I spoke to afterwards; but I could not ascertain that he had used to M. de Danzas language to justify the inference the latter had drawn from what he had said. It may possibly be from a Report made at that time to his Government, that M. de Danzas conveyed the impression expressed by M. Jonini to Mr. Plunkett.

An opinion has prevailed here since the Conference at Berlin that Russia would not be displeased if Greece, by breaking the peace, should create confusion in the European provinces of Turkey; M. Tricoupi assures me, however, that the Russian Government has not, at least openly, given any countenance to such an idea, as far as he is aware, either here or to the Greek Representative at St. Petersburgh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 426.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 308.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 6, 1880.*

THE number of young men who have answered the call to serve in the army since the Decree for mobilization was published has latterly increased beyond what was at first expected, and it is probable that more men will come forward for enrolment than was anticipated, or are indeed required.

Including the trained soldiers to be called out at the last moment, it is estimated that, unless the enrolments are checked, the numbers of the army will reach 80,000 men, instead of 60,000, which number was counted upon and provided for.

At the commencement of the mobilization the measure was very unpopular in the Ionian Islands and Western Greece, and many young men took advantage of the neighbourhood of Italy to escape there in order to avoid military service. By reports lately received from those parts it appears that these men, in consequence of the presence of public opinion, and feeling the shame of avoiding their duties, are returning in considerable numbers, and being daily enrolled in the ranks of the army; much more enthusiasm is manifested in all ranks than was shown when the Decree was first published.

At first about 500 men presented themselves daily in answer to the call to serve, and, by last daily report received, 780 had been enrolled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 427.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 348.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, October 7, 1880.*

ON the 11th September last I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 334 that the Bulgarian officers of Eastern Roumelia had sent a deputation to the Permanent Committee to express their dissatisfaction at the present state and management of the provincial militia.

I have now the honour to transmit a translation of the text of the petition finally drawn up by them.

Your Lordship will observe that the contents of this document generally agree with the verbal representations previously made, although the petitioners recommend in it the appointment of Russian specialists for the school battalion, whose services as military instructors they cannot yet well do without.

I am informed that Prince Tzeretelew and Captain Eck, the Russian Military Attaché, are very displeased, and have pointed out to the Governor-General the insubordination committed by these officers in presenting such a petition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure in No. 427.

Petition presented by the Bulgarian Officers of Eastern Roumelia to the Governor-General and the Permanent Committee.

THE Bulgarian officers of the province, having in view the good order and prosperity of the troops of their country, consider it their duty to beg the Permanent Committee to make the following changes:—

1. In accordance with the decision taken by the National Assembly during its last Session, and the repeated promises of the President of the Permanent Committee, an immediate alteration should be made in the "personnel" of the staff, which ought to be composed of Bulgarians. The post of "Directeur de l'Administration" should most decidedly be held by a Bulgarian.

2. A Court of Honour, consisting of selected officers, should at once be formed for the protection of the reputation of the army.

3. A Military Court is indispensable, and should be at once established.

4. Officers who have disgraced the service by various abuses, or who have conducted

themselves badly, are to be immediately dismissed, and accused officers serving in the gendarmerie not to be transferred to the militia, and *vice versâ*.

5. In accordance with a resolution passed during the last Session of the National Assembly respecting the appointment of two Adjutant-Advisers, Captain Philoff was nominated in that capacity in attendance on the Governor-General. We therefore request that Captain Philoff may enter upon his duties.

6. Promotion should take place by seniority according to certificate of service and other documents.

7. No separate command ought to be given to foreign officers who are unacquainted with the military laws of the province and the language of the troops.

8. Certain military specialists should be sent for from Russia to take charge of the school battalion which has been established for the instruction of officers and non-commissioned officers, as only Russians are acquainted with both the language and the military laws (of the province).

9. The rights and honour of all officers, whether natives or foreigners, should be equally protected, and their remuneration in every way the same.

10. Officers should be changed or removed to other posts only when there is proper cause, and not merely at the will of one of the authorities.

11. Vacancies for officers should be filled up by offering appointments to the native officers who have this year completed their term at the military school of Sophia; and in the event of their refusing to come here, choice should be made of the best sergeants-major and non-commissioned officers in accordance with Article 6 of the Annex of the Organic Statute, instead of appointing civilians who have no knowledge of military service or of discipline, which is so necessary for our troops.

12. The troops should be inspected and controlled by the military Commanders recognized in the Organic Statute, and not by Secretaries or other persons not designated in the Statute for that purpose.

In the event of the above remarks not being attended to we will consider we have at least done our duty by presenting this petition, and, to our great regret, be obliged to tender our resignations.

(Signed by the Bulgarian Officers of Eastern Roumelia.)

No. 428.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 349.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, October 7, 1880.*

HAVING been informed that a statement was circulating in the Constantinople newspapers that the Turkish inhabitants of Seldjeler, in this district, had recently emigrated from the province *en masse*, I visited that village. On arriving, I was told by a Bulgarian priest that the Turks of the village had all left last winter, but that a few of them had returned during the summer to sell their lands.

The facts of the case, as given to me by two Turks, formerly residents of the place, who happened to be in the village at the time, are briefly as follows:—

One night at the end of February last a body of armed Bulgarians attacked the Turks, burning and destroying their houses. The latter, taking alarm, fled during that night and the next day, and took refuge at Philippopoli, where they had since remained. Many of them had returned to the village during the daytime to sell their lands, but none had returned to reside.

It will thus be seen that the rumour which has got about of a whole Turkish village having recently emigrated from Eastern Roumelia is founded on events which occurred last winter.

It is nevertheless a fact that many Mussulmans have during the last few months sold their lands and emigrated, but, as far as I have been able to ascertain, there has been no exodus in large numbers, save in the case of 300 Turkish widows and children who were lately sent to Constantinople at the expense and by order of the Sublime Porte.

There was a moment, it is true, not long ago, when the Mussulman population of this district, alarmed at the rumours which were circulating in the Turkish press, seriously meditated selling their lands and emigrating, fearing, they said, that if an outbreak took place in the province there would be a massacre, and that those who escaped would never receive anything for their lands. I thought it my duty at the time, in the interests of these unfortunate people who have already suffered so much, to urge the Turkish notables of Philippopoli to immediately take measures for reassuring the minds of their

co-religionists, and to point out to them the suffering to which they would be exposed by emigrating. I afterwards learnt that Haida Effendi, the chief Turkish notable in the town, had called a meeting at which he pointed out the foolishness of paying attention to the wild reports which were spread, and strongly urged the Mussulmans of Eastern Roumelia to retain their lands.

I have invariably impressed on the Bulgarians the importance in the general interest of the province that no further delay should be permitted to take place in the settlement of the claims of the Mussulmans, many of whom are so much in need of the timely assistance which the prompt payment of the "ijaret" due to them would afford.

In a conversation which I lately had with the Governor-General, I referred to this subject, and his Excellency promised to address a Circular to the Prefects and Baillis instructing them to promote in every way the final settlement of the ijaret claim.

I am happy to be able to inform your Lordship that not only the Mussulmans themselves, but the Greeks and the foreigners resident in Philippopoli, are all agreed that a great improvement has taken place in the condition of the Moslem population.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 429.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 351.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, October 7, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, in translation, a copy of the statute of the Macedonian Society recently founded in Eastern Roumelia, as reported in my despatch No. 329 of the 28th August last.

The Statute states that the object of the Society is the improvement of the moral and intellectual condition of Macedonia, and that all subscribers of not less than 2 fr. may be counted as members of the Society, a list of their names and subscriptions being published in the Bulgarian newspapers at the end of each month.

Permission is granted to establish branches wherever there is a Bulgarian population, and a Committee, consisting of five members chosen annually, is to carry out the resolutions passed at the yearly meeting.

On referring to the subject yesterday, in conversation with the Governor-General, his Excellency said that he had been obliged to approve the Statute, as the nature and object of the Society were the same as those of the Greek "Syllogos" at Constantinople, which enjoyed the sanction of the Sublime Porte. If it afterwards appeared that there was anything in the action of this Society subversive or dangerous to the State, it would immediately be suppressed.

I have likewise the honour to forward a translation of a paragraph extracted from the last number of the "Maritza," reporting that a Circular has been issued by the Ministry of Justice at Sophia, prohibiting Government officials in the Principality from taking part in the Bulgar-Macedonian League, the programme of which I had the honour to communicate to your Lordship in my despatch No. 343, Confidential, of the 25th ultimo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 429.

Statute of the Macedonian Society.

(Translation.)

ARTICLE 1. A Society is formed at Philippopoli under the title of the "Macedonian Society," with a view of improving the moral and intellectual condition of Macedonia.

Art. 2. The Macedonian Society will strive to satisfy all such wants of Macedonia as are connected with the object defined in Article 1.

Art. 3. All subscribers of not less than 2 fr. may be counted as members of the Macedonian Society.

The names of the members of the Society, together with their subscriptions, are to be published at the end of each month in the Bulgarian newspapers.

Art. 4. The Macedonian Society may establish branches in Bulgaria, or wherever there is a Bulgarian population.

Art. 5. The Committee of the Macedonian Society will consist of five members, chosen at a yearly meeting, which should be held during the first week of September.

Art. 6. Invitations will be issued one month in advance by the Committee to all branches of the Society to take part in the yearly meeting.

Art. 7. The members of the Committee will choose among themselves a President, a Cashier, and a Secretary. No resolution can be taken unless three at least are present.

Art. 8. The Committee will take charge of the funds of the Society.

Art. 9. The Committee will carry out the resolution passed at the yearly meeting, and collect the subscriptions, which they will devote to the most pressing wants.

Art. 10. Aid given for any defined purpose, consistent with the object of the Society, will be spent by the Committee according to the wishes of the subscribers.

Art. 11. The Committee will present at the yearly meeting statements of their proceedings and accounts.

These statements will be published in the newspapers.

Art. 12. In case of necessity the Committee may call an extraordinary meeting, in which representatives from the branches will take part.

Such a meeting may be called at the request of 100 members, or three branches.

Inclosure 2 in No. 429.

Extract from the "Maritza" of October 5, 1880.

(Translation.)

THE following Circular has been sent by the Minister of Justice to the Tribunals of Bulgaria:—

"I have the honour to inform you, M. le Président, for your guidance, that having learnt that a rumour was circulating that a Bulgar-Macedonian League had been formed in the Principality with a view to the emancipation and the union of Macedonia with Bulgaria, the Ministerial Council in its sitting of the 28th August/9th September taking into consideration that such proceedings on the part of Government officials would be compromising to the Principality, ordained "that any public servant taking part in the Bulgar-Macedonian League will be dismissed." You will furnish those serving in your Department with a copy of this notice.

No. 430.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 352.)

Philippopoli, October 7, 1880.

My Lord,

IN accordance with instructions received from Mr. Goschen, I communicated to Aleko Pasha, on the 3rd instant, a copy of Colonel Wilson's Report on the condition of the Mussulman and Greek populations of Eastern Roumelia.

During a visit which I paid yesterday to the konak, his Excellency thanked me for the communication of the Report, observing, however, that there were several points in it on which he thought Colonel Wilson had been misinformed. He briefly referred to that part which dealt with the condition of the Moslems, maintaining that all their lands had now been restored, and that, if in some cases the "ijaret" had not been paid by the Bulgarians, it was on account of the bad harvest last year.

He also said that he regretted that Colonel Wilson should have referred to past events, and not confined his Report to what he had personally seen and heard.

In the absence of instructions from your Lordship or Mr. Goschen, I thought it better to avoid entering into any premature discussion on the subject, remarking, in reply to his Excellency's observations, that Colonel Wilson's statement as to the unrestored lands was founded, I felt sure, on good and accurate evidence, and that it was impossible to give a clear and useful account of the present condition of affairs in the province without referring to past events.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. CONDIE STEPHEN.

No. 431.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 447. Confidential.)

Therapia, October 11, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship several despatches received from Captain Swaine, Military Attaché, on the following subjects:—

The Greek army in the autumn of 1880.

The lines of Boulair, near Gallipoli.

New purchase for the Russian volunteer fleet.

Torpedo preparations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 431.

Captain Swaine to Mr. Goschen.

(Confidential.)

Therapia, October 10, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following memorandum on the Greek army, dated the 7th instant. It shows its composition, the measures taken to prepare it for active service, and the number of men that are, and can be, called out to swell its ranks.

I have obtained it confidentially from the Greek Military Attaché. I cannot, however, undertake to vouch for its correctness.

By the Law of the 29th April, 1880, and by the Royal Decree of the 8th July last, the Greek army is composed of:—

22 battalions of infantry of the line;
8 battalions of rifles;
2 regiments of cavalry of 4 squadrons each;
1 regiment of artillery, made up of—
  2 heavy batteries, of 8·7 cm.
  4 field batteries, of 7·5 cm.
  8 mountain batteries, of 7·5 cm.
  } of 6 guns (Krupp) each.
2 battalions of engineers.

In all 36,431 men.

In addition to these numbers, to complete the army on a war footing, there are:—

13 depôt sections of infantry (one for each of the 13 departments of the country);
1 depôt troop of cavalry;
1 depôt section of engineers;
1 depôt half-battery of artillery;
1 depôt half-troop of transport corps;
6,254 gendarmes for duty in the country;
1 company army hospital corps;
30 sections small-arm ammunition train;
30 sections commissariat train;
1 section artillery ammunition train;
2 sections artillery stores;
2 sections engineer train.

With the exception of 4 battalions of infantry of the line, and the depôt and train sections, which are in course of formation, all the other branches of the service are ready.

The total effectives of this army amount to 50,200 men (about), and by adding of the territorial army the number allowed by Statute, it can be raised to above 60,000. There are 10,000 horses and mules.

The strength of	1	battalion	of infantry is	1,045	men.
„	„	1	battalion of rifles	„ 1,016	„
„	„	1	regiment of cavalry	„ 602	„
„	„	1	battalion of engineers	„ 1,020	„
„	„	1	regiment of artillery	„ 2,030	„

On the 7th June last the army on the new organization was 11,762 men strong.
The following classes will be called out to complete the army for active service:—

(*a.*) The contingent of 1880.
(*b.*) The men who should be passed into the reserves this year.
(*c.*) The men "en disponibilité."
(*d.*) The reserves.
(*e.*) The 1st and 2nd bans of the territorial army.

The numbers of these different classes will be found in the Table at the end of this memorandum. It gives the total liable for service of each year.
At present there are under arms:—

(*a.*) The men born in 1859 (this year's contingent).
(*b.*) The men "en disponibilité."
(*c.*) The reserves.

That is to say, 114,656 men. From this number must be deducted some 30,000 men who form the exemptions sanctioned by the last Decree. This leaves about 84,000, of which at least 50,000 may be counted upon as forthcoming.
On the 29th of last month the following numbers had joined:—

1,120 volunteers for the gendarmerie.
4,130 in the rifle and other battalions, but of whom many belonged to the reserves.
7,457 (the contingent of this year).
5,741 who were "en disponibilité."
5,156 of the territorial army.

Altogether 23,613 men, making a grand total of about 34,000.

The men who are actually serving will be kept on, although the time for their discharge may be due.
The battalion will remain the unit.
It is intended to form two or three army corps, which will be echelonned along the Turkish frontier.
The chief concentrations will probably take place at Lamia, Missolonghi, and Corfu.

RECAPITULATION.

	Year of Birth	No. of Men.	
141,917 can be called up in accordance with the Royal Decree and the Articles 61 and 62 of the Law on Recruiting.	1859	12,996	Already under the colours.
	1858	8,053	"En disponibilité."
	1857	12,874	
	1856	10,764	Reserve.
	1855	11,955	
	1854	16,694	
	1853	13,601	
	1852	12,825	
	1851	14,956	
	1850	8,974	Territorial army.
	1849	17,587	
	1848	7,335	
	1847	13,456	
	1846	9,089	
	1845	8,594	
	1844	16,030	
	1843	10,474	
	1842	10,080	
	1841	12,377	

That is to say, that in the 19 classes there are 228,649 men, all told.
Of the 12,996 men registered for service of the 1859 class, only 10,589 are available.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 431.

Captain Swaine to Mr. Goschen.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Therapia, October* 11, 1880.

WHILE at Gallipoli last week I visited, by your Excellency's directions, the fortified lines of Boulair.

I went by the most direct road to the village of Boulair. This track passes close to Fort Sultan, and then follows the indented "hog's back" to the village which gives its name to the old lines of 1855.

I found the earthworks round Boulair (marked in blue on the map of "The defensive position near Boulair, showing the lines of 1855"), in a fair state of preservation. The covered way also between Fort Sultan and Fort Victoria, as well as this latter earthwork, were in a tolerably good state. Looking towards the other side of the lines leading down to Fort Napoleon all seemed in much the same condition.

On these portions of the lines I think that one week's good work would suffice to restore them sufficiently for all immediate purposes.

Not so, however, with Fort Sultan. This being the key of the position, I consider something more should be done to it than merely throwing up a few handfuls of earth. In the first place, the earth seems of a much lighter kind than that on the rest of the works, although I am at a loss to understand why that should be the case, as the covered way right and left of it appears firm enough.

The escarps and counterscarps—the only part of the work I was able to see, as I could not enter without official permission—have crumbled down considerably, and are of little value in their present condition.

The whole of the works are open and undefended towards the south.

The guns are chiefly collected in Fort Sultan, and I was informed by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul that there were three 15 cm., sixty-five 9 cm. to 12 cm. siege guns (these sixty-eight are all Krupps), and thirty-six old muzzle-loading smooth-bore guns. I saw three of these at a distance and they appeared to be old 32-pounders.

The garrison of Gallipoli and the lines consist of one battalion of infantry, one regiment of cavalry, and 200 gunners; a total of about 1,000 men.

The advanced position at the village of Boulair appeared to me capable, even with very little additional labour, to be almost impregnable, provided the army that held it had command of the sea to allow a fleet to co-operate in its defence.

The village of Boulair stands between 200 and 300 feet above the plain, on which a cross fire from the several batteries on the knolls surrounding it, and the fleet could make it impossible for any enemy to live.

Thus strengthened, the position would be incapable of being turned, and an enemy advancing upon it would be forced to attack on a narrow front and in the teeth of all its guns.

I do not, however, wish your Excellency to understand that the village is to be strengthened only at the expense of the regular lines in rear.

What I wish to say is that the lines having been taken in rear by a *coup de main*, the first solicitude of their new occupiers should be to place the advanced position in a thorough state of defence, as it requires fewer men; and having command of the sea it would be of doubtful advantage for any Power to occupy the peninsula unless it had command of the sea—it would make a counter-attack upon it from the very beginning a matter of extreme difficulty and risk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 431.

Captain Swaine to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Therapia, October* 11, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I saw a few days back a large apparently steel-plated, steamer lying in the Golden Horn, having every appearance of a man-of-war, but showing no armament on board. It was flying the Russian mercantile flag.

What specially drew my attention to this ship was its formidable ram.

On inquiry I was told that it was the "Yaroslav," a new purchase for the Russian volunteer fleet, but I could ascertain no particulars.

It has since left for Odessa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE.

Inclosure 4 in No. 431.

Captain Swaine to Mr. Goschen.

(Confidential.)

Therapia, October 11, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, with reference to my despatch No. 36 of last month, that from the same source from which I then gave my reply to the question whether any torpedo defence for the Dardanelles was being prepared, I now learn that there is much more torpedo material in store than my informant was aware of.

The wire is stowed away in various places, and it is only within the last few days that the Committee on Torpedo Defence has been able to ascertain definitely the real amount.

It would now appear that there are 186 torpedo-cases at Tophané, each of which is being tested to withstand 18 lbs. pressure, which, I learn, is more than sufficient for the circumstances attending the placing of such in the Dardanelles.

There are 246,156 yards of cable, 41,426 yards of land wire (unarmoured cable); there are also 16 galv., and 10 station-pointers; batteries—about 600 cells (Leclouché's).

Nothing has yet been said about sending torpedoes off. But a quantity are ready to be shipped at any moment.

The above shows that there is material enough to lay down several lines, but they could only be fixed "by observation," and at night this would not carry much certainty with it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE.

No. 432.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 449.)

Constantinople, October 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rhodes respecting Sadyk Pasha's visit to that island, and other matters connected with his Consular district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 432.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Mr. Goschen.

Rhodes, October 4, 1880.

Sir

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that his Highness Sadyk Pasha left Rhodes in the Turkish dispatch boat "Hanin" on the morning of the 1st instant for Castel-Rosso. This small but populous and flourishing island, although situated at a distance from the rest, and lying close to the coast of Asia Minor, counts as one of the Sporades, and is comprised in the vilayet of the Archipelago.

The Governor-General gave out that he would touch again at Rhodes before returning to Scio. It is also stated that he will visit the Islands of Scarpanthos and Cassos before coming on here. The Cassiotes have complained against the Turkish Kaimakam of their island, and it is surmised that Sadyk Pasha's present tour is not unconnected with the movement for a restoration of their ancient privileges which the inhabitants of the outlying islands are understood to have lately embodied in a memorial to the International Commission at Constantinople. This step, I may observe, was taken with so much caution and secrecy that it only became generally known here through the columns of a Greek newspaper.

As regards Rhodes itself, the Greek inhabitants, constituting more than two-thirds of the population, are, like the Turks and Jews of the island, of an essentially docile, peaceable, and submissive character, and there is not the slightest sign of agitation among them, although their patience is now being put to a severe test. The matter to which the Governor-General during his stay here devoted his chief if not exclusive attention was the collection of arrears of taxes from the impoverished people. He has issued stringent orders on this head, and a Government agent is now making the tour of the island with the view of carrying them into effect. The same official, I am told, is further charged with the secret mission of making a rough cadastre and estimate of the population.

I learn that the arrival of Her Majesty's ship "Torch" on the 28th ultimo aroused Sadyk Pasha's curiosity, and that he set indirect inquiries on foot to ascertain whether her visit had any particular object. I may mention in this place that the "Torch" returned to her anchorage here from Marmorice on the morning of the 1st instant, and left in the evening of the same day for Smyrna. Captain Selby, I believe, intended in the first place to visit the islet of Alimnia, off the west coast of Rhodes, which I mentioned to him as containing the largest and best natural harbour in all this part of the Archipelago.

It may be of interest here to note that I learn from the French Vice-Consul that he expects shortly at Rhodes a party of "savants" from the French Archæological Mission at Athens, charged to explore the antiquities of the island.

My colleagues inform me that they have all complained to their superiors of the slight shown by Sadyk Pasha to the Consular Body in not returning, or acknowledging in any way, their official visits, as reported to your Excellency in my last despatch of the 29th ultimo. Whether his Highness' want of courtesy has been adopted *proprio motu* only, or in obedience to superior orders, it is certain that on his previous visit to Rhodes, in August 1878, soon after his appointment to this vilayet, he did not fail to return the visits of the Consuls on the following day.

To the same motive, whatever it is, must be attributed the non-observance of customary formalities in another matter. The Governor of Rhodes, Salih Effendi, having left for Constantinople on leave of absence during Sadyk Pasha's stay here, in paying his farewell visits to the Consuls he informed them that he did not know who was to be his *locum tenens*, and that it would be for the Vali to name the Acting-Governor. Although we know indirectly that it is the Chief Kiatib who has been named, no official intimation on the subject has reached the Consular Body from any quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 433.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 461.)

Therapia, October 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the note received this morning from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, the contents of which I immediately telegraphed to your Lordship.

I informed your Lordship, by telegram, how, late on Saturday night, Assim Pasha went round to the Ambassadors and stated that the Government were determined to cede Duleigno at once, and would inform us of this resolution by a note which we should receive the following evening. The necessary formalities had still to be completed. My colleagues and myself, on comparing the conversations which we had separately had with his Excellency, discovered that we had all put the same question to him, namely, whether the cession was to be a real cession or simply an evacuation. We were informed that what the Government meant was not simply evacuation. The Minister was much pressed by all of us on the orders which would be sent to Riza Pasha, but while he stated that orders should be sent immediately for the cession, he avoided entering into any details.

The step thus taken by the Porte appeared to us of good omen. News as to the proposal of the English Government to occupy the Port of Smyrna had been known to the Porte either that morning or the previous day, and it was evident that the Government felt that some immediate step was necessary. The Minister for Foreign Affairs was very emphatic as to the hope of the Porte that no naval demonstration need now take place, but no allusion whatever was made as to the rumours of the latest instructions with regard

to the movements of the fleet. Your Lordship has learnt by telegraph how the note did not reach us, according to promise, on Sunday evening, nor even on Monday evening, but only this morning. The delay is all the more singular as the note is very short, and might have been translated and copied in half-an-hour. As a matter of fact, the Imperial Iradé for the note was not signed till yesterday afternoon.

In the meantime, it was stated in several quarters that the Porte had repented of the step taken on Saturday night. The news had reached Constantinople that Austria, Germany, and France had refused to accept the English proposal (the secret having apparently, on this occasion, leaked out at Paris), and the hope had again been revived that the Powers would not act together. It is probable that, under these circumstances, the declaration to be made by the Porte to the Powers underwent some modifications; but the note on the whole, in its final shape, seems more satisfactory than it was yesterday believed would be the case. In a conversation with the German Ambassador, the Prime Minister did not appear to be prepared to admit fully that the mission of Assim Pasha had been thoroughly official, and his reserve in this respect caused Count Hatzfeldt some surprise. The events of the next few days will show whether the Porte had at last the intention of a *bonâ fide* transfer of Dulcigno and its district, or whether fresh difficulties will be raised.

We have at once discussed what the Porte means by its statement, that "une Convention devra intervenir pour régler les conditions de cette cession," and we have agreed that the Porte should at once be requested to state whether they mean a "Convention" to be drawn up and signed locally by its authorities in Scutari and Dulcigno. In any case, I fear the possibility of fresh delay, as it is impossible to say on what conditions the Porte may insist in arranging the cession. They must be held to mean only conditions as to the mode of transfer, not conditions on which the transfer itself should depend. An international Act will, however, be clearly necessary at a later stage. There is this difficulty in an international Act, that the portion of the territory east of the Lake will probably then have to be dealt with in one way or another, while no agreement as to the line of frontier in that direction has so far been arrived at.

It is clear, I fear, that the Turkish Government will continue to decline all responsibility in respect of the consequences of the cession; that is to say, it will in this respect uphold the declarations made in the previous note. I have ventured to telegraph to your Lordship in very strong terms as to the effect on the Turks at this moment of a determined attitude on the part of the Powers on the one hand and any appearance of retreat on the other. It is abundantly clear that the critical moment has come, and it was, perhaps, scarcely necessary to have troubled your Lordship by telegraph with such obvious reflections. On the other hand, I am struck by the fact how even the strongest partisans of the Porte and the Sultan, and the severest critics of the measures taken by the Powers, even among the Turks themselves, volunteer their opinion, that it is only by the greatest firmness on the part of the Powers that Turkey can be saved from the suicidal decisions at which, without such pressure, it seems but too probable that the Sultan would arrive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 433.

Assim Pasha to Mr. Goschen.

Sublime Porte, le 11 *Octobre*, 1880.

LE Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, est chargé par son Gouvernement de porter ce qui suit à la connaissance de leurs Excellences MM. les Ambassadeurs de la Grande Bretagne, d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de France, d'Italie, et de Russie.

La Sublime Porte voulant donner une nouvelle preuve de sa loyauté et de son bon vouloir, déclare qu'elle cède Dulcigno, et qu'elle donnera immédiatement des instructions catégoriques aux autorités locales pour la cession de cette localité aux autorités Monténégrines par des moyens pacifiques. Une Convention devra intervenir pour régler les conditions de cette cession.

Le Gouvernement Ottoman, qui ne fait ce sacrifice que dans le but d'écarter la démonstration navale, espère que par cette mesure la dite démonstration sera complétement mise de côté.

Le Soussigné saisit, &c.

(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 434.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 19.)

(No. 462. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 12, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a Report which I have received from Colonel Wilson on the forts at the Dardanelles and the Maïdos positions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 434.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 1. Military. Secret.)

Sir, *Therapia, October* 12, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency some notes made during a recent visit to the Dardanelles on the forts to protect "the Narrows," and on the positions on the European side.

In any attempt to seize the Dardanelles the greatest secrecy should be maintained until the moment comes for action, so as to allow the Turkish Government as little time as possible to assemble troops for the defence.

I would beg to suggest that instructions be sent to Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls at the Dardanelles and Gallipoli to report at once any change in the armament of the forts or in the numbers and distribution of the troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 434.

Memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson on the Dardanelles Forts and the Maïdos Positions.

[The references are to the French Staff Map, "Carte de la Presqu'île de Gallipoli," scale $\frac{1}{100000}$, and to the sketches, &c., in the "Reports and Memoranda relative to the Defence of Constantinople, &c.," by the late Colonel Home, R.E.]

THE DARDANELLES.

THE Reports on the defences of the Dardanelles, made by the late Colonel Home and other officers of Royal Engineers in 1876-77, are so complete that there is little to add except some remarks on their present condition.

Asiatic Side.

Chanak Kalessi.—The armament now consists of the following Krupp guns, in addition to the cast iron and stone-shot guns noticed by Major Ardagh:—1 35-cr., 7 24-cr., 9 12-cr. and 15-cr.; total, 17 guns.

The 12-cr. and 15-cr. guns have recently been added to the armament, and the northern portion of the battery, opposite the konak, is now being remodelled for their reception. The stone parapet has been replaced by an earth parapet of weak profile, in which an expense magazine has been constructed for each gun. The terreplein of the rampart is unfinished, and no platforms have yet been prepared. The guns will be "en barbette."

The C. I. M. L. guns are now close to the stone-shot guns. The eight large Krupp guns are in the southern portion of the battery.

Medjidieh Kalessi.—The armament now consists of the following Krupp guns:—2 28-cr., 3 26-cr., 7 24-cr., 4 15-cr.; total, 16 guns.

There are six heavy guns on the left face, three on the right face, and three on the right flank. Two of the 15-cr. guns are mounted "en barbette" at the salient, and two at the end of the left face.

Keosch Kalessi.—The armament consists of fifteen old smooth-bore guns.

Nagara Kalessi.—The armament consists of the following Krupp guns:—1 26-cr., 6 24-cr., 4 15-cr.; total, 11 guns.

There are three heavy guns on the south-west face, two 15-cr. guns on a cavalier at the west angle, and four heavy guns on the parapet connecting the modern battery with the old fort; two 15-cr. guns are mounted on the north-west face and at the north-east angle. The armament of the old work is unchanged.

A line of telegraph, passing along the ridge in rear, connects Chanak with Nagara Kalessi, and a submarine cable crosses the Dardanelles from each of these forts. The four works on the Asiatic side are in telegraphic communication with each other, and with Kum Kaleh at the mouth of the Dardanelles.

Each Krupp gun is said to be provided with twenty rounds of ammunition.

Position in Rear of Batteries.

A ridge runs parallel to the shore, between the Medjidieh and Nagara Kalessis, and rises steeply from the sea immediately in rear of the batteries. There are a few old redoubts upon it, erected by the Russians to protect the batteries during the war with Mehemet Ali. The redoubts are in fairly good repair, but have no magazines or platforms. The first (at the point marked "A" on Captain Anstey's sketch) has a bastion trace, with a weak profile. The second (between the Medjidieh and Kensch Kalessis) is a lunette, with a gun emplacement in the salient; the profile is good, and the gorge is closed by a ditch. The third (on the height marked "160") is similar to the second. The fourth is a square redoubt, on Xerxes' mound, behind Nagara Kalessi; it has a good profile, and a gun emplacement at each angle; the work was entered by a drawbridge, which has disappeared.

The Medjidieh, Keosch, and Nagara forts can be taken in reverse from the ridge, and the Chanak battery, though screened by the old Castle of Anatolia, can be shelled from the hill above Medjidieh Kalessi. Chanak is also within range of the heights on the European side of the Dardanelles.

The ridge forms a good line of defence for the rear of the Medjidieh, Keosch, and Nagara forts, but no attempt has at present been made to occupy it.

Landing-place, and Occupation of Asiatic Side.

There is a good landing-place at Kephery Bay, within the Dardanelles, about 5 miles below Chanak Kalessi, and the ridge might probably be seized by a *coup de main*; the batteries would then at once fall.

If the occupation be only temporary, and no complications be expected, the rear of the batteries could be secured by holding the ridge. If, on the other hand, the occupation be prolonged, and there be danger of complications, it will be necessary to hold the advanced position sketched by Captain Anstey.

The roads, &c., are described in Colonel Home's Reports. In winter, after heavy rain, troops would have to cross the Rhodius by the bridge near Chanak, whence they might reach the ridge by a road passing through the outskirts of the town.

European Side.

Nemazieh Kalessi.—The armament consists of the following Krupp guns:—1 28-cr., 2 26-cr., 12 24-cr., 7 21-cr., 1 15-cr.; total, 23 guns.

Eleven heavy guns are mounted on the left face, four 21-cr. guns on a cavalier at the salient, and four heavy and four light guns on the right face. A few yards below the fort there is a small unfinished battery for three guns.

Khilid Bahr Fort.—Old muzzle-loading and stone-shot guns; no change in the armament.

Derma Burnu Fort.—The armament consists of the following Krupp guns:—6 24-cr., 1 21-cr., total, 7 guns. The proposed new work is still unfinished.

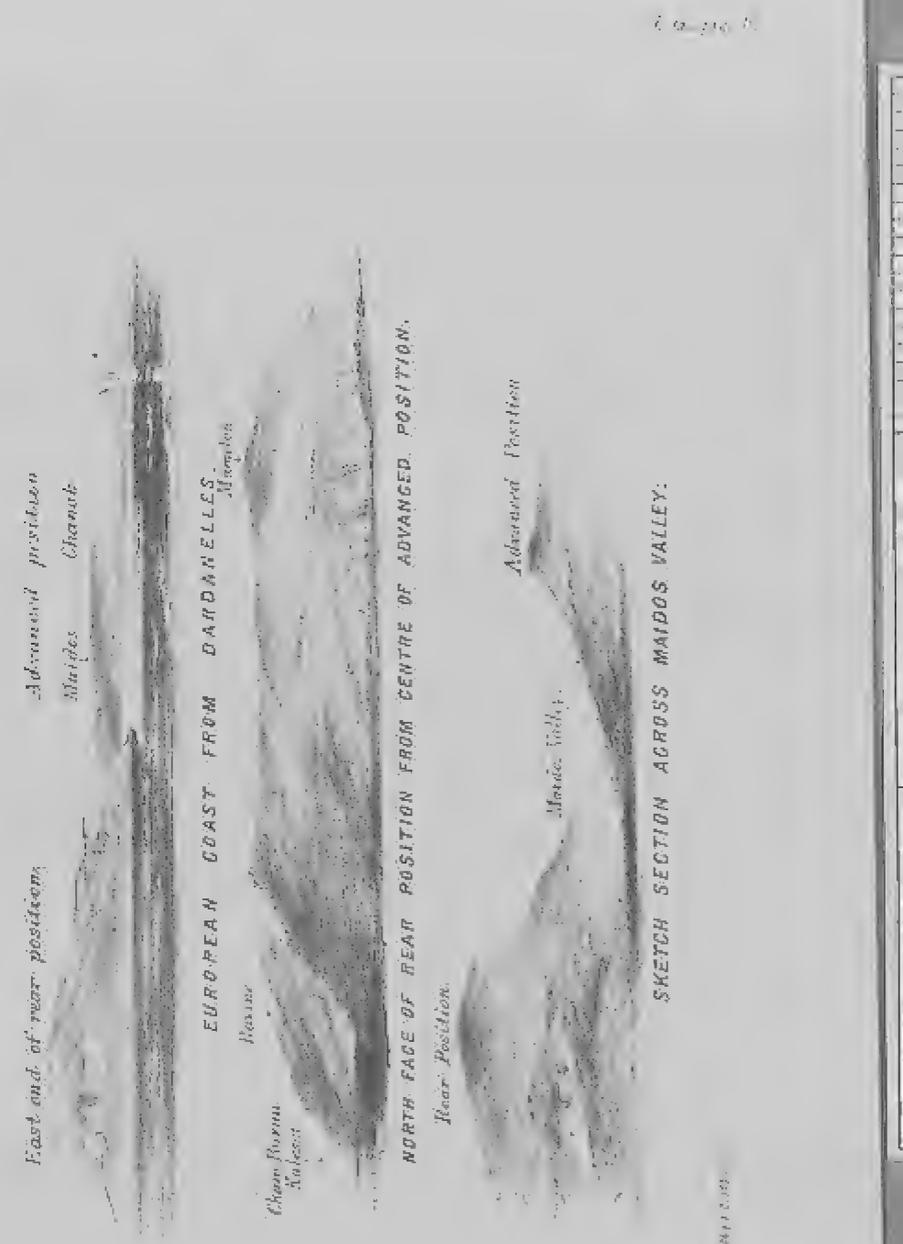
Chain Burnu.—Cast iron smooth-bore guns; no change in armament.

Buhali Kalessi.—Cast iron smooth-bore guns; no change in armament.

The Nemazieh and Derma Burnu batteries can be taken in reverse from the heights in rear; on the top of the hill, above the former, there is an old quarry from which a few riflemen could silence the guns, and there is an equally favourable post for riflemen in rear of Derma Burnu.

Landing-place, and Occupation of European Side.

Captain Grover's project (p. 147 of memorandum) for landing a force at Kaba Tépé, in the Gulf of Xeros, to attack the European forts in rear, is quite feasible; it may, however,



be remarked that if the object be only to secure the passage of the fleet, it would not be necessary to march upon Bukali Kalessi. As soon as the modern batteries were taken and the fleet moved up, the old forts would surrender. Any force landed should be accompanied by a mountain battery and a company of engineers.

If the occupation be temporary, and no complications be expected, the rear of the batteries might be secured by holding the position below Maïdos; but in the event of a prolonged occupation it would be safer and wiser to hold the Bulaïr lines near Gallipoli.

Turkish Troops available for Defence.

The present garrison of the Dardanelles forts, European and Asiatic sides, is estimated at from 1,500 to 2,000 artillery. One-third of the men are recruits, and none of them have had any practice with heavy guns.

It would therefore be quite possible, in the present state of the works of defence, and of the garrison, to land small forces on the European and Asiatic sides and take the batteries by a *coup de main*.

The case in which the Turks would have sufficient warning to allow of their bringing up additional troops must, however, be considered.

There are at present 9,000 troops in and around Constantinople, and 12,000 in the Vilayet of Adrianople, or a total of 21,000 men. This number might probably be increased to 30,000 by calling up recruits. The Adrianople force includes the garrison, about 1,100 men, of Gallipoli and the Bulaïr lines.

It is doubtful whether the Sultan would allow any troops to leave the vicinity of Constantinople, especially if there were joint action on the part of the Powers and the possibility of a Russian advance from the north. The force in the Adrianople Vilayet would be occupied in watching the action of the Bulgarians in Eastern Roumelia, and in maintaining order in the vilayet. The fleet would prevent the arrival, by sea, of reinforcements from Thessaly or Macedonia.

On the whole, it is doubtful whether the Turks, under present circumstances, could spare more than 6,000 or 7,000 men for the defence of the Dardanelles.

The Maïdos Positions.

The ground in the vicinity of Maïdos is well and accurately represented on the French map of the Gallipoli Peninsula, and the advanced position has been sketched by Major Grover, R.E.; the sketch, however, does not sufficiently indicate the steep, broken character of the reverse slope.

The advanced position is a narrow ridge of "Muschel-Kalk," falling gently and evenly to the front with a dip of the strata; but descending so abruptly in rear that infantry could not ascend or descend in any order. At the foot of the steep slope the soft, friable soil is much cut up by deep, narrow water-courses, which in several places would form an obstacle to the free movement of troops.

There is a pathway along the sea-shore from Kilia Bay, round the right of the position, to Maïdos. The ridge is crossed by two roads only, one leading from Eski-Keui (Eski-Ibrahim) to Maïdos, by the line of telegraph near the centre of the position; the other near the left, which runs from Maïdos to Kaba-Tépé without passing through Eski-Keui. These roads are impracticable for artillery on the south side of the ridge, but the latter is used by country arabas and might easily be rendered practicable.

The advantages of the position are that it has an even slope in front, and that it covers Maïdos; the disadvantages are: want of room; no lateral communication; no communication with the rear except by the two roads mentioned above; an abrupt descent in rear, and behind this intricate ground, over which troops could move with difficulty. The advanced position is completely commanded by that in rear.

The position in rear is a long, broad-backed ridge, covered with low thorny bushes, over which troops of all arms could move with ease; it faces partly towards the north and partly towards the north-west, and the highest point is a sort of mamelon at the angle (215 on the French map). From the mamelon there is a fall of about 50 feet to the point marked 199 (on French map) at the east end of the position.

In front of the north face there is a steep, cliff-like descent, and then ground which is cut up in places by deep, almost impassable, water-courses. Towards the west, near the mamelon, a broad spur, connected with the position by a narrow neck, runs well out into the Maïdos Valley. Towards the east, near the point 199 (on French map) the continuity of the ridge is broken by a deep narrow ravine which cuts back into the plateau for some distance; there is a pathway from Maïdos up this ravine. In rear, the ground at

first falls away gently, and then more abruptly, to the valley which opens on the Dardanelles below Fort Namazieh.

The north-west face is broken by deep water-courses, and is far more accessible than the north face. At the south-west end, however, the descent is abrupt to broken ground in front. In rear the ground falls gently away towards Djisoi (on French map).

Two roads, at present impracticable for artillery, but which could be readily improved, lead from the Maïdos Valley to the north face of the position; one near the centre, the other over the broad spur near the left, a third and easier road, recommended by Major Grover for the advance of a force landed at Kaba-Tépé, ascends by one of the water-courses on the north-west face of the position.

The saddle between the advanced and rear positions, which forms the water-parting between the Gulf of Xeros and the Dardanelles, is cut up by deep water-courses which overlap each other and render the ground unsuitable for the movement of troops. The principal araba road from the Maïdos Valley to the country beyond passes over the saddle. The ground is about 100 feet lower than the centre of the advanced position, and about 450 feet below the mamelon on the left of the rear position.

The Maïdos Valley is much cut up by water-courses, and the ground is cultivated with vines, cotton, &c.

There is little wood except fruit trees, a few scattered firs, and thorny bushes. Water can be obtained in the Maïdos Valley, at Khilid Bahr, in the glen above Derma Burnu, and in the valley behind the rear position.

The rear position is the most suitable to be occupied by troops, and it has a command of between 300 and 400 feet over the advanced position.

No. 434 A.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 91. Confidential.)

Belgrade, October 12, 1880.

My Lord,

A TEMPORARY lull appears to have set in as regards the projected insurrectionary movement in Macedonia and Eastern Roumelia. No less than three amongst the most noted leaders in the insurrections which have successively broken out within the last few years in different parts of the Balkan Peninsula, are at present staying here. Their names are Ljubibratitch, Petro Pavlovitch, and Hubmayer. The latter commanded, until quite recently, a band in Macedonia, which, according to his account, numbered about 1,000 men, and was abundantly supplied with money proceeding from Russian sources. The Russian subsidies having been suddenly withdrawn, he applied for assistance to the Bulgarian Government, but they refused, on the ground that they were themselves in great pecuniary difficulties.

The above information comes to me from a person who is, to my personal knowledge, on very intimate terms with Hubmayer, and it is to some extent corroborated by the Ottoman Representative here, who positively assures me this man had a private audience of the Prince of Bulgaria during His Serene Highness' recent visit to Belgrade, but met with no better success than at Sophia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 434 B.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

"Alexandra," Baosich, Gulf of Cattaro, October 15, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the communication made to, and answer received from, the Prince of Montenegro in compliance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 30 of the 12th instant.

The Prince appears very anxious to have present with his troops officers representing each of the Powers, who would act as witnesses in case of any breach of faith on either side, should the Convention for the cession of Dulcigno be made and carried out.

In the last communication made by the Prince to Mr. Kirby Green (who is now here) it was asked that I myself and Colonel Sologhoul, the Russian Boundary Commissioner, should be present with the Montenegrin troops, but now the Prince somewhat extends his request.

A telegram has been addressed to M. Radonich, the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs, asking him to telegraph at once to let us know directly any kind of invitation is received from the Turks to conclude a Convention for the cession of Dulcigno.

At present no intimation has been received that the Turks have done anything of the sort; on the contrary, the latest news from Scutari seems to indicate that Riza Pasha is doing nothing (even if it were in his power) to effectuate the cession of Dulcigno by pacific measures.

Owing to the difficulties of communication between Scutari and Cettinjé, and from other causes, the making of a preliminary Convention may give rise to much delay, and it is difficult to resist the conviction that this was so intended by the Turks; nor is it easy to understand how the Porte, if they really desired to cede Dulcigno, could insist on the cession being effected by "pacific measures," for that condition is equivalent to an invitation to the Albanians to continue their resistance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. T. SALE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 434 B.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Prince of Montenegro.

Monseigneur,

"Alexandra," le 14 Octobre, 1880.

EN réponse à la lettre que votre Altesse a daigné m'adresser, et qui m'est parvenue le 27 du mois passé, je suis autorisé de porter à la connaissance de votre Altesse les faits suivants.

La Porte a donné des assurances que Riza Pacha a reçu les instructions de céder la ville et le district de Dulcigno selon les délinitions de la note des Ambassadeurs.

Les détails de la cession seront décidés par une Convention, qui doit être faite sur le lieu, entre les Commandants Ottomans et Monténégrins.

Riza Pacha réunira dans sa personne les fonctions civiles et militaires, comme Commissaire Impérial et Commandant des troupes.

Je m'empresse d'exprimer à votre Altesse la pleine confiance que j'ai qu'aucune difficulté n'interviendra de la part du Monténégro au sujet de l'arrangement qui doit être effectué avec les autorités Turques.

Je prends cette occasion pour prier votre Altesse de vouloir bien agréer l'expression de mes hommages les plus respectueux.

(Signé) BEAUCHAMP SEYMOUR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 434 B.

The Prince of Montenegro to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Cettinjé, le 14 Octobre, 1880.

JE remercie votre Excellence pour sa communication. Vous pouvez être sûr de ce que je ferai tout mon possible pour éviter les complications de quelque nature que ce soit, durant la remise de Dulcigno et la fixation des détails de cette opération. Le Chef de mes troupes sera muni en conformité d'une instruction précise et rigoureuse. Mais j'aurais été heureux si, afin d'éviter la possibilité même d'un malentendu entre le Monténégro et les Gouvernements Européens, ces derniers eussent consenti à autoriser les Commandants des escadres d'envoyer au camp Monténégrin un officier de chacune pour toute la durée des pourparlers au sujet de la remise et de l'exécution de celle-ci. Ces officiers auraient eu pour charge d'assister au camp en qualité de témoins pour la constatation des faits qui auront lieu, et pour l'appréciation de la conduite du Chef des troupes Monténégrines. Ce procédé aurait fourni la possibilité d'éviter la diversité des témoignages en cas de dissentiments ou de complications subséquentes. La même demande est adressée aux Représentants des autres Puissances.

No. 435.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 651. Extender.)
Vienna, October 14, 1880.
My Lord,

AS Baron Calice has telegraphed that the Porte explains that the whole district of Dulcigno is included in the cession to Montenegro, and that the Convention spoken of in the note refers to the arrangements to be come to by the military Commanders for the evacuation, the Imperial Government trust that no difficulties will be raised with respect to secondary details.

They have been informed that a suggestion has been, or is likely to be, made for calling upon the Sultan to guarantee the Montenegrin territory from attack by the Albanians, but they consider that it would be most unwise to endanger the settlement at which we seemed so nearly arrived, by putting forward a demand almost certain to be refused.

They say that if the Sultan fails in his international duties to his neighbouring State he must be called upon to fulfil them; but the first and immediate object now is to get the Montenegrins put into possession of the district, and when they are once there any ulterior arrangements that may be required can be discussed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 436.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 656. Confidential.)
Vienna, October 15, 1880.
My Lord,

AS directed by your Lordship's Confidential despatch No. 629 I communicated Baron Haymerle the copy of Colonel Wilson's Report upon the treatment and condition of the Mussulman population in the district of Bourgas, and I inquired whether he would be willing to remonstrate jointly or singly against the abuses described in it.

His Excellency said that he was quite ready to remonstrate, but he thought it would be best to do so singly; for though the reports of the Austro-Hungarian Agents were in the main very similar to that of Colonel Wilson, the Imperial Government could not properly found a representation upon an inquiry which had not been of a joint character.

There were also some of the Governments which might not be disposed to join in a remonstrance, and separate communications from such as were willing to make them would probably be the best.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 437.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 984. Extender.)
Paris, October 17, 1880.
My Lord,

IN pursuance of telegraphic instructions which I had the honour to receive from your Lordship last night, I let M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire know this morning that your Lordship had directed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to inquire of the Porte what progress had been made in effecting arrangements for carrying out the promised cession of Dulcigno, and to ask, moreover, whether orders had been sent to the Ottoman Agent at Cettigné to make a communication on the subject to the Prince of Montenegro.

At the same time I informed M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire that your Lordship would be much pleased if he should think it advisable to send similar instructions by telegraph to the French Ambassador at Constantinople.

I pointed out, moreover, that there appeared to be a tendency at the Porte to suppose that the mere note announcing the intention to cede Dulcigno would appease

the Powers without immediate action on the part of Turkey; and I added that it seemed to me to be very important to make at once to the Porte a communication calculated to counteract this tendency.

M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire informed me, in reply, that he would send immediately to the French Ambassador instructions similar to those which your Lordship had dispatched to Mr. Goschen. He observed that he agreed with me in thinking that it was necessary to make the Porte clearly understand that a simple note was not enough, and that it was the actual transfer of Dulcigno and its district with the least possible delay that the Powers expected of the Porte.

His Excellency added that, indeed, he had already expressed this view formally to the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires here, and had also recommended it to the special attention of the French Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 438.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 986. Confidential. Extender.)
Paris, October 17, 1880.
My Lord,

AT the request of Sir Charles Dilke I have transmitted to your Lordship, by telegraph, the substance of observations respecting the conduct of Russia with regard to Dulcigno, which were made to him in conversation to-day by Baron de Courcel, the Director of Political Affairs in the French Foreign Office.

Baron de Courcel appears to have said to Sir Charles Dilke in this conversation that he regretted to find that Russia was doing all in her power to prevent a settlement of the Dulcigno question. She had, he told Sir Charles, proposed to the French Government to join in sending out a Military Commission to examine once more the proposed Montenegrin frontier. This was, in M. de Courcel's opinion, "un piège." He believed that the Russians thought that their proposal might be met by a counter-proposal to examine the frontier by means of officers on the spot. Now, as England alone had any officers there, the Russians, M. de Courcel supposed, calculated on the other Powers being driven to employ naval officers from the combined fleets, on the Turks declaring thereupon that coercion was being used, and on the proposed arrangement thus once more breaking down.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 439.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 320.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, October 18, 1880.

I HAVE seen the Foreign Minister and Prime Minister. The former knows nothing about the first condition named by Turkish Commissioner, namely, as to frontier north of lake. He declares it must be a misunderstanding. It had been understood that the line north of lake was to be left for future discussion. Riza Pasha had general instructions. The conditions had not been formulated by the Ministers. He would communicate with colleague [? about] withdrawal of this condition.

Prime Minister also declared that Riza Pasha had had no precise conditions laid down by the Porte; he professed ignorance as to what had actually been asked.

I told him that the bringing forward of a condition in the [?] Convention which had been categorically rejected by the Powers would have the worst effect, and [? said] that if not withdrawn, the distinct inference came that the last proposal to cede Dulcigno had only been made to gain a week's time.

His Highness gave me to understand, but not categorically, that the condition would be withdrawn, but that he must communicate with colleagues. He promised me answer to-morrow. He seemed surprised to hear that the remaining conditions, except the first and the fifth, would be accepted by Montenegro.

(Sent to Mr. Green.)

No. 440.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 321.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October 18, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 320, I thought it best to act without an hour's delay, and to demand explanations in a very decided manner as to the revival of the question of the *statu quo* line.

I strongly urged Prime Minister to telegraph immediately to withdraw that condition, and to avoid the certain angry remonstrances that would otherwise infallibly arrive.

I hinted very plainly that I believed the condition had been dictated by the Palace. The Foreign Minister was most positive, and, I think, sincere, in asserting his own innocence of the condition.

The Prime Minister gave shuffling answers in the same sense, but I pressed him very hard. At last I asked him point blank whether I might inform my colleagues distinctly that he had not authorized or approved the condition? He was silent, and on my repeating the question, said he would explain to-morrow.

No. 441.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 207.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 19, 1880.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 816, Baron Jomini writes that M. de Giers has instructed M. de Novikow to associate himself with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in asking Porte what progress has been made in carrying out cession of Dulcigno. Russian Government consider it would be necessary to repeat the threat of ulterior measures if the cession is not completed within a fixed period. M. de Giers asks me to submit this idea to your Lordship.

No. 442.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 208. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October 19, 1880.*

WITH reference to preceding telegram, Baron Jomini again yesterday expressed to me his private opinion that Russia ought not to join England alone in active measures against Turkey. It would excite too much suspicion both in Germany and Austria.

As long as there are three Powers taking active measures, Russia will go anywhere with England, but if Italy were to withdraw, as he thinks she will in the end, Baron Jomini says that Russia should also hold back and join the other Powers in constituting Great Britain their mandatory, and inviting her to take the active measures in their name.

I feel doubt whether Baron Jomini is really only expressing his own views; he has come back to the point several times.

No. 443.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 127.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October 19, 1880.*

YOUR No. 120 of yesterday.

My information is confidential, and from Mr. Summa, who has the best possible opportunities of knowing what the Turkish authorities are really doing with the Albanians. It is true that the Scutari contingent has been withdrawn, but the arrangement proposed by Bedri Bey concerning the evacuation by the Turkish troops and the advance of the Montenegrins would give ample time for the whole of the Albanian irregulars to occupy the ceded district. Hodo Bey is now in Scutari with all the Mussulmans from Tusi, and in a few hours could easily [? be] on the Dulcigno heights. If the Turkish Commander

would only accept responsibility of preventing the passage of irregulars across Turkish lines, I do not see that the Montenegrins could require much more.

(Sent to Constantinople and Admiral.)

No. 444.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 128.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October 19, 1880.*

FOLLOWING to Mr. Goschen, under No. 125:—

"Your telegram of yesterday.

"The Prime Minister's statement of knowing nothing about first condition is not borne out by Riza Pasha's letter to the Montenegrin Commander, as he states that the terms of proposed Convention had not only been communicated by Porte to him, but also to the Powers.

"Bedri Bey, before leaving, altered the wording of the fifth proposal, omitting the claim for the Ottoman flag for vessels only partly owned owned by Turkish subjects. He added verbally that the Porte does not attach very much importance to the Article."

(Sent to Admiral and Therapia.)

No. 445.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19.)

(No. 184.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October 19, 1880.*

BARON HAYMERLE is indignant at the stipulations of the Porte about the cession, and regards Nos. 1 and 5 impossible for the Prince to accept.

No. 446.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 19, 11·30 A.M.)

(No. 109.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 19, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 697.

Prince Bismarck agrees with your Lordship that instructions should be sent to Ambassadors at Constantinople to put continued pressure on Porte until cession of Dulcigno has been effected.

No. 447.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 122.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 19, 1880.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 120, your proceedings in regard to the Mussulman prisoners are approved.

No. 448.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 609.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 19, 1880.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith, under flying seal, a despatch* which, in consequence of the information contained in your Excellency's despatch No. 302 of the 27th ultimo, I have addressed to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sophia, instructing him to call the attention of the Bulgarian Government to the proceedings reported by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rustchuk, which, in the opinion of Her

* No. 451.

Majesty's Government, are in derogation of the rights of foreigners under the Capitulations, and in contravention of Article VIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 449.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 611.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1880.

I APPROVE your having instructed Mr. Stephen to furnish Aleko Pasha with a copy of Mr. Wilson's Report on Eastern Roumelia, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 411 of the 30th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 450.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 538.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1880.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 450, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, reporting a conversation which took place between yourself and the Turkish Ambassador at St. Petersburgh on the attitude of this country and the other Powers towards the Sultan in the present crisis, and I approve the language which you held to his Excellency on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 451.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 127.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1880.

I HAVE received a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, forwarding a copy of a despatch addressed to you by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rustchuk, reporting the practical suppression of the "Tidjaret," or Commercial Court, at that place, and giving an account of the action taken by the foreign Consuls at Rustchuk in connection with this question.

Her Majesty's Government having given Mr. Vice-Consul Dalziel's Report their careful consideration, are of opinion that the proceedings recorded in it are in derogation of the rights of foreigners under the Capitulations, and are also in contravention of the VIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin. I have accordingly to request you to call the attention of the Bulgarian Government to this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 452.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 131.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 19, 1880.

I APPROVE your having returned to your post at Cettinjé after ascertaining that your services were no longer required by the Admiral at Ragusa, as reported in your despatch No. 320 of the 29th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 453.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 460.)
My Lord, *Rome, October* 12, 1880.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 525 of the 7th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Italian Government are ready to take similar action with Her Majesty's Government as to remonstrating jointly or singly against the abuses described by Colonel Wilson in his Report inclosed in your Lordship's above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 454.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 464. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, October* 12, 1880.

COUNT MAFFEI informs me that the King of Greece has, in course of conversation with Signor Cairoli, expressed himself satisfied at the manner in which their Majesties have been received by the King and Queen of Italy, as also with the disposition in which he found the Italian Minister, and the friendly welcome he has met with in the several towns of Italy through which he has travelled.

To the President of the Council he expressed the hope that the interests of his country would not be lost sight of by the Powers.

The Greek army, His Majesty said, at present only numbered 30,000 men—nearly all of them raw recruits; but he felt confident that by next spring, when the 30,000 men of the reserve force would be called to join them, he would be able to take possession of the provinces assigned to him by the Treaty of Berlin, unless in the meantime the Powers had effected a settlement of the question, in accordance with the Treaty.

His Majesty expressed some anxiety as to the complications to which the Bulgarian movement may give rise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 455.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 470. Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *Rome, October* 15, 1880.

TURKHAN BEY, the Turkish Minister, called upon me the day of his departure, and showed me a telegram that he had received from the Sultan's Secretary, instructing him to proceed, without delay, to Constantinople.

Turkhan Bey appeared entirely ignorant of the object for which he had been thus unexpectedly summoned, and said that—due to the fact of the telegram being sent direct from the Palace, and apparently without the knowledge of the Minister for Foreign Affairs—he concluded that His Majesty was perhaps desirous of learning from a fresh source the opinion entertained in Europe with regard to the present critical situation of the Empire.

Being well acquainted with Turkhan Bey, I thought I might venture to take this opportunity to speak to him most unreservedly as to the late proceedings of the Porte. I could not, I said, congratulate him on the task he was now called upon to perform, that, as far as I could judge, his position was a clear one. If he went to Constantinople with the intention of truckling to the whims and fancies of his Imperial master, or to encourage him in his stubborn and senseless attitude, he would—apart from the discredit he would inevitably bring upon himself—precipitate matters and hasten a catastrophe. If, on the other hand, he meant to act patriotically, the intrigues and corruption of the Palace, and the envy and hatred by which he will be surrounded, will soon bring his career to an untimely end, unless he felt sufficiently strong to make himself honoured

and respected, which I thought was a difficult task at Constantinople at the present moment.

I then repeated what I had already said to him on a former occasion (see my despatch No. 407 of the 3rd September), and added that unless the Porte was prepared to make ample reparation for the last insult to Europe, he would soon have occasion to see how deeply it has been resented by the Powers.

Turkhan Bey appeared much disconcerted, not only at the idea of being called to the front at so critical a moment, but also by the very slender hope that I held out to him that Her Majesty's Government and the other Powers would now be satisfied with anything short of a faithful and complete execution of the provisions of the Treaty.

If he was destined, he said, to fall, he would endeavour to do so honourably, and come what may, he was determined to advocate a radical change in the policy of his Government, especially in its attitude towards Her Majesty's Government; at all cost, and at any sacrifice, he said, Turkey must redeem, if still possible, the friendship of England, who is the only Power she can confidently rely on, and who alone can save the Empire from dismemberment. He requested me to convey this assurance to your Lordship, and to inform you that he would take the earliest opportunity to see Mr. Goschen, with a view, if called to a responsible position, to seek his advice and support in carrying out his intentions. Turkhan Bey requested me to convey the above intelligence to your Lordship in the strictest confidence, as any knowledge of his views at Constantinople could only tend to thwart his plans.

I may here observe that Turkhan Bey is a Mussulman Albanian, a native of Janina. On leaving the university at Athens, where he acquired an exceptional education for a Mussulman, he entered the diplomatic service, and after serving at St. Petersburgh, Berlin, and Vienna, he was, at the age of 33, appointed Minister to this Court, where he has made himself markedly popular.

He is upright, intelligent, and active, and, to a certain extent, unprejudiced; on the other hand, he is somewhat weak, ready to jump at conclusions, and apparently attached to his creed and nationality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 456.

Mr. Macdonell to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 20.*)

(No. 471.) *Rome, October 16, 1880.*

My Lord,

IN order to explain the vacillation and uncertainty which has characterized the policy of this Government, I may perhaps venture to trouble your Lordship with a few observations, which will at the same time serve to explain the want of connection which may have appeared in my reports.

Within a comparatively short period the policy of this country has passed through a number of strange and varied phases indicating the most contrary tendencies.

At Berlin, Italy hoped, by furthering the cause of Greece and Montenegro, to gain a less isolated position in the European concert.

The attention of the Government was then called to the agitation for the "Italia Irredenta," and a rupture with Austria appearing on that account imminent, it sought to bring about a *rapprochement* with France and Russia by a tacit encouragement of the Albanian League.

Finding itself, however, again isolated, when the question of Tunis began to assume paramount importance in the country the Government thought it prudent to make advances to Germany and Austria, and deemed it to the interest of Italy to abandon the cause of her Berlin protégés.

Upon the collapse of the Tunisian question—having failed in her advances towards Germany—Italy now appears seriously to court the friendship of England, and to be willing to take a foremost part in carrying out the provisions of the Treaty.

Though the Ministers who have succeeded Count Cavour pretend to have followed in his footsteps, none of them have ever been guided by a clear and definite foreign policy.

Count Cavour, like most enlightened Italians who have lived in England, evidently destined United Italy to be a peaceful and liberal country, and his whole policy tended to reconcile her material and moral interests. Internally he aimed at the development of her resources, as proved by the undertakings of the Mont Cenis tunnel and of the port of

Brindisi, &c., with the ever-present object of placing this country in an intermediary position between England and the East, confident that free trade was destined to be the eventual bond of union between them.

At Count Cavour's death the questions which remained to be solved were those of Venice and of Rome, but the events which occurred at Turin before the transfer of the capital to Florence, and the scandals they gave rise to, showed the deplorable moral condition of the national representatives, and it was on that occasion that the President of the Chamber was seen to leave his seat for the purpose of impeaching the Government. The Italian Ministers had completely lost sight at this moment of all idea of a foreign policy.

The Progressista and Radical opposition was gaining ground, and it was not only Venice that was demanded, but great pressure was brought to bear upon the Government to bring about a solution of the Roman question. Then followed the events which led the Italian Government to Rome. The union having been effected, the only thought of the Government was the consolidation of its new acquisition, to the total neglect of any definite line of foreign politics.

From the occupation of Rome to the fall of the Conservative Ministry, the Government never gave its opinion on any foreign question without having previously ascertained those of other Governments. The internal question which preoccupied the attention of the Government, and which prevented it from assuming any different attitude, was naturally that of the possession of Rome, and the King well knew that if he were to play too conspicuous a part he would encourage the enemies of the Church, and might push the Pope to countenance a movement for the re-establishment of the temporal power.

Moreover, the power of the Opposition and the bitterness of party strife in the Chambers at that moment were such that they finally culminated in the crisis of the 18th March.

The death of Victor Emmanuel only added to the existing confusion in the foreign policy of the Government.

The authority and prestige of Victor Emmanuel over his Ministers had, up to that moment, saved appearances, but after his death the Liberals, who had till that time no other programme but opposition to the French Imperial Government, initiated a foreign policy on that basis. But as soon as Imperial France ceased to exist, the advocates of this course found themselves defeated in its object. The Radical element then demanded a general change of the Ambassadors who had represented the Conservative Government at foreign Courts. But, once in power, they were convinced that, having no policy to advocate and no persons fit to represent them abroad, the best plan was to leave matters as they were.

The appointment of Count Corti as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Count Tornielli as Secretary-General proved that the Liberal Government had no intention of venturing on an active foreign policy, and, indeed, at that moment it would have been difficult for them to devise a policy which would have satisfied the majority in the Chamber.

In that majority there were partizans of Turkey, partizans of a sincere alliance with Austria, partizans of an alliance with Russia in the interest of the Slav and Greek populations; there were Deputies of the Left who strongly advocated an alliance with Republican France; others saw in France a systematic opponent of the commercial and industrial development of Italy; others again were loud in their claim for the reacquisition of Nice and Savoy and of the Trentino and Trieste. One Deputy had a programme, another another, whilst a third opposed them both.

In presence of all this confusion the Government thought that the most prudent plan was to adhere to the course pursued by the Right, that of groping their way, prudently avoiding to arrive at any result.

When Count Corti went to Berlin he was not ignorant that his position and that of his Government were most precarious. Ambition on one side and private interest on the other soon brought dissensions in the Cabinet, depriving the Government of every sort of consideration and authority.

Whilst the Government, on the one hand, declared that it was determined to follow the prudent policy of the Right, the Right, which perceived its policy being followed by the Ambassadors it had appointed, decided not to support the Government in following the very policy which it had itself initiated. The Right or Left cared little what the result of the Congress might be, but both awaited its conclusion with a view to attacking the Government, and the Government, without any exact idea of what they had gone to seek at the Congress, and having failed to acquire the confidence of other Governments, then seized the idea of supporting France with regard to Greece and Montenegro as the last possible means of lengthening their term of office, and it was then that the "Opinione,"

the organ of the moderate party, stirred up the question and caused the agitation of the "Italia Irredenta." Such was the position of the Italian Representative at the Congress of Berlin. The press thereupon attacked the Government violently in consequence of its want of a foreign programme; but never pointed to what it should or should not do, and these bitter reproaches continued until the meeting of the Chambers.

The oratorical inability of M. Melcagari and Count Corti did not then mend matters, nor were Signor Depretis or Signor Cairoli more fortunate in convincing the country that Italy had a foreign policy. Indeed, in a speech of Signor Depretis he clearly demonstrated the powerlessness of Italy when, turning to the Ministerial side of the House, from the Centre to the Extreme Left, he said, pointing to the Ministerial benches, "How is it possible to satisfy you, when you all want to sit on those benches?"

Many had hoped that the new elections would have furnished the Government and the Opposition with a means of coming to an understanding; but the elections had a very unexpected result. The contest lay between the supporters of the Government and the dissentients of the Left. The Right had no other interest in it than to avoid an active collision with either one party or the other, with the hope of thereby profiting from desertions from both parties. It was at this moment that the Vatican thought the opportunity a favourable one for the Catholics to interfere in the elections.

The Clerical party, who take part in the municipal elections, but who keep aloof from the political ones, number about one-third of the whole electoral body; consequently, by combining with one of the organized parties, they were sure of victory. This led to some negotiations between the leaders of the Conservative party and the Right Centre, but it was evident that the Right sought the assistance of the Clericals so as to strengthen its own position, and showed no inclination to make any formal concession on other questions to the Conservatives. Some of those questions referred to foreign policy; one of the principal conditions being that of an anti-Russian policy, which, while satisfying the interests of the Vatican, was not in contradiction with Count Cavour's original programme.

All these negotiations having fallen through, and the Vatican having subsequently decided to await the reorganization of the electoral law, before allowing the Clericals to vote, the old parties remained in presence of one another with all their former differences and factions, and consequently the elections resulted in a victory for the Extreme Left.

On the eve, therefore, of a Parliamentary contest which is likely to produce a serious crisis, due to various internal questions, but more especially to the heavy octroi duty (which has been imposed in order to make up the deficit caused by the abolition of the grist tax), it is natural that the Government should feel insecure and unable to venture on any definite foreign policy. The chief cause of this is perhaps to be found in their great thirst for popularity, for which, indeed, they have compromised the interests of the national finances, and placed the Government in the position of being unable to meet those sacrifices which a strong Government might safely have demanded.

Such is, I venture to think, the present political position of this country, and such are the circumstances which have led its Government to seek, in the Eastern complication, the opportunity of strengthening its position by initiating a foreign policy, whilst by so doing it hopes to be drawn into closer relations with the only Power whose friendship and support is sought and valued by all parties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. G. MACDONELL.

No. 457.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 473.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 15, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 413 of the 22nd September, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of the note which I have received from Baron Jomini in reply to the communication which I made to his Excellency on the 20th ultimo.

It will not escape your Lordship that Baron Jomini's note, which is couched in terms somewhat unusual in diplomatic intercourse, refers only to the number of Russian officers sent to Eastern Roumelia, whereas my communication had called his attention chiefly to the excessive number of Russian non-commissioned officers lately entering the Eastern Roumelian service.

Baron Jomini passes in silence over the part attributed to Captain Eck, the Russian Military Attaché at Philippopoli, in these enrolments of Russian non-commissioned officers.

Unless Baron Jomini should himself again speak to me upon the subject, I propose awaiting your Lordship's further instructions before referring any more to matters respecting which the Russian Government always display so much temper, and on which facts are either evaded, or are met only by flat assertions of their inaccuracy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 457.

Baron Jomini to Mr. Plunkett.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, le* 2 *Octobre*, 1880.

PAR une note en date du $\frac{8}{20}$ Septembre vous avez bien voulu me faire part des appréciations du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique au sujet du grand nombre de sous-officiers Russes qui auraient été engagés dans la milice de la Roumélie Orientale, en remplacement des indigènes ayant fini leur temps de service.

Renseignements pris, je suis en mesure de vous informer que quatre officiers Russes ont effectivement été désignés pour remplacer les officiers Russes qui ont quitté la Roumélie Orientale, et qui étaient au nombre de onze.

En portant cette information à la connaissance de votre Gouvernement, veuillez le rendre attentif du fait qu'il y a, tant à Constantinople qu'à Philippopoli, beaucoup de personnes intéressées à répandre de faux bruits sur tout ce qui se passe dans ces contrées.

Il serait désirable que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique n'accueille les nouvelles qui lui parviennent de là que sous bénéfice d'inventaire.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) Baron JOMINI.

No. 458.

Pro-memoriâ communicated to Earl Granville by M. de Hengelmüller, October 20.

WITH reference to the conditions which Riza Pasha has raised for the surrender of Dulcigno, the Imperial and Royal Government have telegraphed to their Ambassador in Constantinople that, with the single exception of Article VII, none of them is fit to be included into a Military Convention. All these questions ought to be settled later, and ought to form the subject of a Convention to be concluded between the Powers in place of the April Memorandum. The Porte had promised on the 9th instant to surrender Dulcigno unconditionally. What does it mean now that she comes back on the *status quo* line, after we have succeeded in persuading Russia and Montenegro to drop this discussion?

Baron Haymerle has instructed our Ambassador to call the Porte's attention to the endless and incalculable difficulties which may result therefrom, and to ask the Sultan's Government whether they really mean to burden themselves in face of all the Powers with the appearance of dishonesty and disloyalty.

The Ambassador has been charged to do his utmost in order to settle the question quickly.

Belgrave Square, October 20, 1880.

No. 459.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 20.)

(No. 322.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 19, 1880.

HAVE sent following figures this evening to Mr. Green:—

"First Dragoman took down the following statement in writing at interview with Foreign Minister to-day:—'After having conferred with the Prime Minister, Assim Pasha declared to me officially that instructions had just been sent to Riza Pasha not to raise the question of the *status quo*, which question was reserved for an understanding with the Powers hereafter, that is to say, after the cession of Dulcigno.'"

No. 460.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 323.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 19, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram of this evening to Mr. Green, Foreign Minister told First Dragoman unofficially that the *status quo* measure had probably been raised by Riza Pasha himself. On First Dragoman putting the question whether Riza Pasha had acted completely without instructions on the subject, his Excellency replied that he could not give a categorical answer, as the instructions to Riza Pasha are given by the Minister of War, whom neither he himself nor the Prime Minister had seen since yesterday.

No. 461.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 324.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 20, 1880.

LAST telegram received No. 702.

Does your Lordship wish us to act here in consequence of the fresh difficulties raised by the Porte, and its apparent refusal to do more than evacuate, or may we expect instructions from the Cabinet?

Nothing short of decisive measures, such as that the fleet will move to Dulcigno at once to support Prince if there is not a regular surrender of the town, is likely to be effective.

No. 462.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 185.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 20, 1880.

AUSTRIAN Government will send an officer to attend the conferences of the Turkish and Montenegrin Delegates if the other Governments do so.

No. 463.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 209.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 20, 1880.

SEMI OFFICIAL "Agence Russe" to-day calls attention to the fresh tergiversations of the Porte respecting Montenegro. It says the Sultan's conduct proves that the maintenance of a complete understanding between the Powers is now more indispensable than ever.

No. 464.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 20.)

(No. 210.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 20, 1880.

BARON JOMINI sees with regret tone of article in the "Times" of Tuesday. He says that it will increase the faith of the Sultan in Musurus Pasha, and convince him that the latter is correct in making the Sultan act on his conviction that, at last moment, the English people will not allow the present Government to go as far as active measures against Turkey.

He is anxious for your opinion on his inquiry of yesterday made in my telegram No. 207.

I assured Baron Jomini that I saw no symptom of any change in the ideas of Her Majesty's Government, and reminded him that Her Majesty's Government are in no way responsible for what the "Times" chooses to say.

He again said Russia's main desire is to follow England.

No. 465.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.**

(No. 706.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 20, 1880, 6·15 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Chargé d'Affaires states that his Government have instructed their Ambassador at Constantinople that, with the exception of the VIIth, none of the Articles of the Convention proposed to Montenegro are fit to be included in a Military Convention. All these questions ought to be settled later in a Convention to be concluded by the Powers to replace the April Agreement. The Porte having promised on the 9th instant to surrender Dulcigno unconditionally, why is the *status quo* question raised again after Austrian Government had succeeded in persuading Russia and Montenegro to drop the discussion? The Ambassador is to call the Porte's attention to the endless and incalculable difficulties which may result, and to ask whether the Sultan's Government really mean to incur in the face of all Europe the appearance of dishonesty and disloyalty.

The Ambassador is to do his utmost to get the question quickly settled.

No. 466.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 542.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 20, 1880.

THE Russian Ambassador showed to me a telegram from his Government, concurring in the proposal that the Ambassadors at Constantinople should inquire of the Porte what progress had been made towards the cession of Dulcigno, and suggesting that the inquiry should be accompanied by a statement that the Powers might find themselves compelled to resort to ulterior measures if the surrender were not speedily accomplished.

I told Prince Lobanow that all the other Powers had concurred in the proposed inquiry, but that I doubted the expediency of using threats. We had abstained from doing so hitherto, and I had informed the Turkish Ambassador at our first official interview that we should be unwilling to employ them, although any intimation which we found it necessary to make would be carried out to the letter. It did not appear to me that our position would be strengthened by deviating from this course of conduct on the present occasion, and I thought it might even be weakened if, as was not improbable, some of the Powers abstained from holding identical language.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 467.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.†

(No. 1387. Extender.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October* 20, 1880.

I HAVE been informed by the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires that his Government have instructed their Ambassador at Constantinople that, with the exception of the VIIth, none of the Articles of the Convention proposed to Montenegro by the Porte as a preliminary to the cession of Dulcigno are of a nature to be included in a military Convention. All the points referred to in the other Articles ought to be settled later in a Convention to be concluded by the Powers to replace the April Agreement. The Porte having promised on the 9th instant to surrender Dulcigno unconditionally, why, the Austrian Government inquire, is the question of the *status quo* raised again after that Government had succeeded in persuading Russia and Montenegro to drop the discussion.

The Ambassador is to call the Porte's attention to the endless and incalculable difficulties which may result from the course now being pursued by Turkey, and to ask

* Also to Mr. Plunkett (No. 843), Lord Odo Russell (No. 726), Sir H. Elliot (No. 773), Lord Lyons (No. 589), and Mr. Macdonell (No. 771).

† Also to Mr. Goschen (No. 615), Mr. Plunkett (No. 541), Lord Odo Russell (No. 681), Sir H. Elliot (No. 699), and Mr. Macdonell (No. 579).

whether the Sultan's Government really mean to incur, in the face of all Europe, the appearance of dishonesty and disloyalty.

The Ambassador, the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires added, was to do his utmost to get this question quickly settled.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 468.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 619. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 20, 1880.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 324 of to-day, in which your Excellency raises the question of the necessity of taking decisive measures to induce the Sultan to execute his engagement to surrender Dulcigno. Her Majesty's Government understand that all the Powers have instructed their Representatives at Constantinople to address a united inquiry to the Porte in order to ascertain what steps are being taken to effect this object, and in the event of the reply being unsatisfactory I shall not fail to address your Excellency further instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 469.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 108. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October* 9, 1880.

THE military authorities have recently extended the state of siege to Vodina, Kuprulu (Velessa), and Stroumnitza, in Macedonia.

In each of those districts a Court-martial has been instituted, with power to take cognizance of all criminal cases.

The inhabitants, particularly those of Vodina, complain of the harsh and arbitrary proceedings of these military Courts, but on the other hand, I hear that the proclamation of martial law in Kiuprulu has, so far, had a good effect; the excitement and irritation caused by the numerous agrarian outrages in that district (*vide* my Report No. 104) have considerably subsided, especially among the Mahommedans; the town is quiet, and no serious crime or outrage has occurred in the district within the last fortnight.

I should add that the Governor-General of Salonica visited Kiuprulu toward the end of last month, but I have not yet learned any particulars of his proceedings there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 470.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 313.)
My Lord, *Athens, October* 13, 1880.

THE Greek Government had intended to raise a loan in Paris of about 80,000,000 drachmas to meet the extraordinary expenses they are called upon to make at this moment, and negotiations with this object have already commenced. It was not proposed to conclude the business until after the meeting of the Chamber, whose sanction would have been asked for, before the matter was finally arranged.

The Government, however, considering that the moment for action is approaching, and unwilling to encounter the inevitable delay which would occur in raising a loan abroad, have commenced negotiations with the National Bank of Athens for the immediate advance of 62,000,000 fr., 35,000,000 fr. in specie and 27,000,000 fr. in Bank notes at 1 per cent. per annum, granting to the Bank a prolongation of its privilege to issue notes from the date when the privilege, it now enjoys, expires (in 1892).

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 471.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 314.)
My Lord, *Athens, October* 13, 1880.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 299 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a note which the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires has been instructed by the Porte to address to the Greek Government, with reference to the Circular addressed by the latter to the Great Powers respecting the sale of State property in Thessaly and Epirus (copy of which was inclosed in my despatch above mentioned).

The nature of the contents of the Circular are said to be unprecedented in the history of International Law, and Tewfik Bey is instructed to declare that Turkey, as absolute mistress of the provinces mentioned, intends to dispose of the State property there without restriction, and, finally, the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires protests formally against the contents of the Circular on the matter, addressed by the Hellenic Government to the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 471.

Tewfik Bey to M. Tricoupi.

M. le Président, *Athènes, le* 9, *Octobre*, 1880.

LA Circulaire que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Hellénique a adressé le 4 Septembre dernier à ses Représentants à l'étranger pour protester contre la vente publique par le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman des propriétés domaniales sises en Epire et en Thessalie, étant un fait sans précédent dans l'histoire du Droit International, la Sublime Porte vient de m'inviter à déclarer à votre Excellence que la Turquie, en sa qualité de maîtresse absolue de ces contrées, entend disposer, sans la moindre restriction, des biens de l'Etat se trouvant dans les provinces limitrophes, et qu'elle n'aurait garde de s'en préoccuper autrement, si la protestation du Gouvernement Royal n'aurait pour but évident de diminuer les avantages que le Gouvernement Impérial pourrait être dans le cas d'attendre de l'exercice d'un droit régalien incontestable.

En conséquence, j'ai l'honneur, M. le Président, d'ordre de la Sublime Porte, de protester formellement contre la Circulaire que le Cabinet Hellénique a transmise aux Puissances relativement aux propriétés en question.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) TEWFIK BEY.

No. 472.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 21.)

(No. 315.)
My Lord, *Athens, October* 14, 1880.

REFERRING to my despatch No. 307 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to report that public opinion is pronouncing itself every day more in favour of early action on the part of the Greek Government to obtain possession of Epirus and Thessaly, and the enthusiasm in the army and among the public has greatly increased.

I do not think there is any idea on the part of the Government to act immediately; indeed it would be impossible for them to do so until the army more nearly approaches complete organization, and until the reserves of trained soldiers have been brought under the colours. This has not yet been done, though preparations have been made to ensure their coming forward as soon as the moment for action is supposed to have arrived.

The King is expected to arrive at Athens to-morrow, and the Chamber will meet on the 21st instant, so that it is probable that some definite policy will before long be proclaimed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 473.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 316.)

My Lord, *Athens, October 14, 1880.*

THE French Chargé d'Affaires has informed M. Tricoupi that his Government proposes to name M. de Mouy French Envoy to Greece in place of M. des Michels.

It having been reported here that the cause of M. des Michels' recall was that M. Tricoupi had complained at Paris of the unsympathetic language made use of by the former in regard to this country, to the effect that France would not "spend a franc or sacrifice a soldier for Greece," I asked his Excellency to-day if there was any truth in this report. He assured me that, as far as he was concerned, there was no truth whatever in the report; on the contrary, the language of M. des Michels to him, and the assurances he brought from France, from the Government and persons of influence there, were most friendly and reassuring.

At the request of M. Ternaux, M. Tricoupi caused a paragraph to be inserted in his official organ denying the above-mentioned rumour in regard to the recall of M. des Michels.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 474.

M. de Hengelmüller to Earl Granville.—(Received October 21.)

(Very Confidential.)

Dear Lord Granville, *London, October 19, 1880.*

A LITTLE time ago you called my attention to the indiscretions of the Viennese press, and you told me how you desired to transact all business with the Imperial and Royal Government in a spirit of full confidence, but that the fear of newspaper revelations made you sometimes hesitate to carry out this desire.

I have not failed to communicate to Baron Haymerle your desire as well as your complaint.

In reply, he has charged me first of all to express to you his best thanks for the confidence you wish to show to us, and to give you the assurance that it will be fully and most unreservedly reciprocated by him.

With regard to the newspaper indiscretions, Baron Haymerle's feelings are the same as yours, but not his appreciation of the actual facts. He knows but too well by his own experience how the revelations and combinations of the press interfere with the transacting of affairs not to lay the utmost importance on the secrecy of diplomatic communications. He regrets deeply that meddlesome interference of the papers which makes diplomatic exchange of ideas so difficult by converting the most fugitive suggestion into a positive proposition and objections and reserves into a refusal. But he denies most positively that such interference has ever been called forth, made possible, or been encouraged by indiscretions of the Imperial and Royal Government.

He has made it a duty with all his subordinates to observe the greatest reserve in this respect, and he knows how to impart stringency to his orders. He wants me, therefore, to assure you that no fear of this kind ought to make you hesitate to speak to the Imperial and Royal Government with full and open confidence.

Her Majesty's Government are in a position easily to control the accuracy of the informations sent to the London papers by their correspondents in Vienna. We do not deny that they are often well informed. But you know how extended the relations of some of these correspondents are, and that the more prominent among them have a social standing which is not limited to the superficial contact with the Imperial and Royal Government, but gives them access to diplomatic circles.

Baron Haymerle supposes that when you spoke of the Viennese press you meant the "Neue Freie Presse," as this is the only Vienna paper which contains a certain amount of actual facts, though largely mixed up with falsehoods, and founded oftener upon lucky hits than upon positive knowledge. But the "Neue Freie Presse" is a violent opposition paper. Its indiscriminating and unsparing attacks upon the Imperial and Royal Government would alone suffice to refute the supposition as if there was any connection between them, and as if the former would supply it by authoritative informations with the materials for its criticisms.

I would not have ventured to dwell so long on this matter if it were not that the Imperial and Royal Government are highly desirous that their attitude towards the press should be correctly appreciated by you.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) HENGELMÜLLER.

No. 475.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received October 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Baosich, October 20, 1880.*

WITH reference to telegram No. 320 from Ambassador at Constantinople, it is therein stated that the Montenegrin [? Government] accepted all the conditions of the Convention for the cession of Dulcigno, except the first and fifth; but, according to the latest information received here, the Turkish Delegate proposed that a sort of certificate of delivery to the Montenegrins should be signed three days before actual entry of Montenegrin troops. This impossible condition was practically rejected by the Prince of Montenegro.

I venture to bring this to your Lordship's notice in case there should be any misunderstanding in the matter.

No. 476.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 110.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October 21, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 726.

Minister for Foreign Affairs, to whom I communicated your Lordship's telegram yesterday, says that German Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed to support the instructions sent by the Austrian Government to their Ambassador at Constantinople.

No. 477.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 21.)

(No. 45.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 21, 1880.*

THE King opened the Chamber to-day by a speech. His Majesty said the obligations which the nation had incurred were heavy, as the army now being organized would have to remain under the colours until the new order of things was established in the provinces adjudicated to Greece. He was determined to carry out the mobilization thoroughly, and the consequences are the measures which would be submitted to the Chamber.

No. 478.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 775. Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 21, 1880, 10·15 P.M.*

ASK Baron Haymerle what the Austrian Government propose should be done if the Turks play false about Dulcigno.

No. 479.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 711.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October 21, 1880, 10·20 P.M.*

SUPPORT the Austrian Ambassador in the representations he is instructed to make to the Porte. The German Ambassador has been instructed to support him also.

No. 480.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 21, 10·50 P.M.)

(No. 130.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October* 21, 1880, 7 P.M.

TURKISH Delegate has not returned to Ricka, and the news reaching me from Scutari makes me share the Prince's opinion that the Porte is only bent on gaining time for other ends.

(Sent to Admiral and Therapia.)

No. 481.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 628. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 21, 1880.

THE Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople has received instructions to represent very strongly to the Porte the necessity of carrying out without delay the engagement by which it has bound itself to cede Dulcigno. He will be supported by the German Ambassador, and I have requested your Excellency by telegraph to join in these representations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 482.

Earl Granville to Mr. Macdonell.

(No. 580.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 21, 1880.

THE Italian Ambassador called at the Foreign Office to-day, and read two telegrams from his Government, urging that the Powers should assume a firm attitude, in view of the Porte's evasions respecting the cession of Dulcigno.

Count Menabrea was informed that instructions had already been sent to Mr. Goschen in this sense, and that the Austrian Government had written in the strongest terms to the Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople, instructing him to remonstrate with the Porte, and that it was believed that the Ambassadors were to-day engaged in some joint representations on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 483.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 22.)

(No. 110. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, October* 12, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of two despatches which I have received from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli at Cavalla, relative to the state of affairs on the Macedonian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 483.

Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt.

Monsieur, *Cavalla, le 4 Octobre*, 1880.

JE vous écris très à la hâte et au dernier moment du départ de la poste.

Je viens de lire une lettre adressée à mon collègue de Grèce par laquelle on l'informe que les Bulgares au nombre de 2,000 seraient descendus dans les campagnes de Razlog;

et que le Mutessarif de Serres serait descendu à Nevrocop avec trois bataillons d'infanterie pour les battre.

On dit dans la lettre que les Bulgares sont excités partout et qu'ils parlent à haute voix de leurs droits sur la Macédoine. Le temps me manque de vérifier ces nouvelles.

A Cavallas sont arrivées 50 familles "muhadjirs" (réfugiés) du côté de Nevrocop, qui veulent se rendre à Brusse.

Samedi je me ferais un devoir de vous faire tenir des nouvelles plus fraîches et sûres.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) DR. PECCHIOLI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 483.

Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt.

Monsieur, *Cavalla, le 10 Octobre*, 1880.

M'ÉTANT fait une loi de vous communiquer toutes les nouvelles qui parviennent à ma connaissance, j'ai cru mon devoir de vous participer le contenu de la lettre reçue par mon collègue de Grèce, tout ayant eu soin de déclarer que je me serais occupé de vérifier les nouvelles y contenues. A cet effet je me suis mis en campagne dès le lendemain pour savoir la vérité. Mais le pays qu'on disait être le théâtre de ces faits est bien éloigné. Les rapports entre Cavalla et Nevrocop sont rares et les personnes à interroger pas souvent dignes de confiance, de manière que les rapports étant contradictoires, autant que la nouvelle était grave et nécessaire de vérifier, je me suis servi d'un express et j'ai attendu son retour, qui s'est effectué comme j'ai télégraphié la nuit passée.

Voici maintenant la vérité vraie sur l'affaire :

Une vingtaine de jours avant plusieurs personnes s'accordaient à raconter que du côté de Djuma il y eut une rencontre entre des soldats Ottomans et une vingtaine des Bulgares appartenant au "Comito Kleptis." Il y eut perte d'un homme d'un côté et de l'autre.

Sur les montagnes du Djuma il y a 200 ou 300 Bulgares qui font l'exercice des armes, et avec force de bravades intimident les passagers par des menaces d'une prochaine descente pour délivrer les frères de la Macédoine, &c.

A Nevrocop il y a parfaite tranquillité pour le moment. A Razlog de même. Cependant il est vrai qu'un certain nombre des soldats Ottomans de Serres sont rendus à Nevrocop. Voilà ce que j'ai su et ce qui est vrai. Tout le reste sont des exaggérations.

Voyant que vous voulez être bien renseigné sur ce qui se passe, même au delà du sandjac de Drama, je me suis mis à même de me procurer des bons correspondants, et en cas des nouvelles très-importantes j'aurais recours aux express.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) DR. PECCHIOLI.

No. 484.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received October* 22.)

(Secret.)
My Lord, *Admiralty, October* 22, 1880.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of Earl Granville, copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, dated the 14th October, forwarding copy of a letter addressed to His Highness the Prince of Montenegro, informing him that the Porte had stated that Riza Pasha had received instructions to cede the town and district of Dulcigno.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 484.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Secret.)

Sir, "*Alexandra*," *in Teodo Bay, October* 14, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of a letter I have this day addressed to His Highness the Prince of Montenegro.

2. I have transmitted to my colleagues, the foreign Representatives present, a copy of the same.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. BEAUCHAMP SEYMOUR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 484.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Prince of Montenegro.

Monseigneur, "*Alexandra*," *le* 14 *Octobre*, 1880.

EN réponse à la lettre que votre Altesse a daigné m'adresser, et qui m'est parvenue le 27 du mois passé, je suis autorisé de porter à la connaissance de votre Altesse les faits suivants.

La Porte a donné des assurances que Riza Pacha à reçu les instructions de céder la ville et le district de Dulcigno selon les définitions de la note des Ambassadeurs.

Les détails de la cession seront décidés par une Convention, qui doit être faite sur le lieu entre les Commandants Ottomans et Monténégrins.

Riza Pacha réunira dans sa personne les fonctions civiles et militaires comme Commissaire Impérial et Commandant des troupes.

Je m'empresse d'exprimer à votre Altesse la pleine confiance que j'ai qu'aucune difficulté n'interviendra de la part du Monténegro au sujet de l'arrangement qui doit être effectué avec les autorités Turques.

Je prends cette occasion pour prier votre Altesse de vouloir bien agréer, &c.

(Signé) F. BEAUCHAMP SEYMOUR.

No. 485.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 22, 1 A.M.)

(No. 131.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October* 21, 1880, 11·45 P.M.

MONTENEGRIN Delegate has received a telegram from Turkish Delegate announcing that, telegraphic communication being interrupted between Constantinople and Scutari, he has not been able to receive fresh instructions from the Porte, but that notwithstanding he will proceed to morrow to Vir-Bazar, where he asks the Montenegrin Delegate to go to reopen negotiations.

This excuse of interruption of telegraphic communication is frequently resorted to by the Turks.

(Sent to Admiral and Therapia.)

No. 486.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 22, 4·40 A.M.)

(No. 325.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 21, 1880, *midnight.*

WITH reference to your telegram unnumbered of last night, Austrian Ambassador tried in vain to obtain information from Foreign Minister, who professed he was in complete ignorance of what was going on. He had neither seen Prime Minister nor Minister of War. Prime Minister had been at the Palace all night, and was invisible.

The fact that the Foreign Minister is allowed to know so little increases our difficulties exceedingly. We are consulting as to what steps we should take if this continues.

I learnt to-day, but not officially, that fresh orders were given yesterday night to

Riza Pasha to surrender Dulcigno by Sunday at latest, this decision being the result of a night's debate between the Sultan, the Prime Minister, and Mahmoud Pasha. I cannot guarantee the correctness of this news.

No. 487.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 22, 4·40 A.M.)

(No. 326.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 21, 1880, *midnight.*

FOLLOWING to Captain Sale :—

"My telegram No. 320 to Lord Granville referred to the acceptance of the seven conditions, not to the impossible declaration appended. I am myself in doubt as to the meaning of the three days' clause. I believe that it is distinct from the condition of the three hours which were to elapse between retirement of the Turkish troops and advance by Montenegrins.

"I have nothing later than a telegram from Mr. Green of the 19th as to state of negotiations."

No. 488.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 22, 10·27 A.M.)

(No. 327.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 22, 1880, 10 A.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 325, Austrian Ambassador confirms the information I telegraphed last night. The debate, however, was a violent scene, in which the Prime Minister was defeated, and he is furious.

Official information given to Austrian Ambassador by the [?] Prime Minister was literally as follows :—

"Riza Pasha has yesterday received new categorical instructions to effect the cession of Dulcigno to the satisfaction of the parties, in six or seven days' time from now at latest."

I telegraph this to Mr. Green.

No. 489.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 22, 6 P.M.)

(No. 132.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October* 22, 1880, 11 A.M.

TURKISH Delegate has arrived at Vir-Bazar to reopen, as he terms it, *pourparlers* for the cession. I have suggested that if he still pretends he is without instructions, that he should be informed that he can telegraph through Montenegro to Porte.

(Sent to Therapia and Admiral.)

No. 490.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 22, 7·30 P.M.)

(No. 211.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 22, 1880, 5·50 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 846, M. Jomini thinks Austrian pressure on Sultan will be of no avail even when supported by all the other Ambassadors.

He maintains nothing will bring the Sultan now to reason except immediate prospect of force being employed.

I argued that main point now is to keep the Powers acting together, and that Baron Haymerle seemed inclined, since late tergiversation of the Sultan, to use more decided language to the Porte.

No. 491.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 22, 8·19 P.M.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 22, 1880, 5·10 P.M.*

THE Ministry having been beaten in the Chamber by vote of confidence by thirty-seven votes, have given in their resignation to the King. It will be announced to Chamber to-morrow.

No. 492.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 543.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 22, 1880.*

THE Russian Ambassador read to me on the 19th instant a despatch from his Government, in which there was a complaint of your having embodied in an official note the inquiries which I had requested you to make as regards the part taken by Russia in the military arrangements in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

M. de Giers expressed his regret that such suspicions should exist as were evidenced by these inquiries, and stated that Baron Jomini would give all necessary explanations.

The despatch went on to say that the Russian Government declared openly and at once that they had no occasion to hold to the participation of their officers and sergeants in the Eastern Roumelian Militia, and that as soon as the latter was properly organized no time would be lost in recalling them. In fact, asked M. de Giers, what object could there be in their remaining. As to the union of the province with the Principality of Bulgaria, the time had not come for that yet, and the Russian Government were the first to acknowledge it.

M. de Giers added that for two years the Russian Government had done all in their power to confirm the settlement laid down by the Treaty of Berlin. It was Turkey who had made difficulty in accomplishing this object.

The despatch then passed to the subject of the proposed occupation of the port of Smyrna.

The Russian Government expressed their approval of this measure, and suggested that a portion of the Customs revenues might be handed over to the Prince of Montenegro in compensation for the expenses to which he was being put by the proceedings of the Porte.

There was an allusion to the claim put forward in the Turkish note of the 3rd instant, as regards the right of the Sultan to garrison the Balkan frontier; M. de Giers remarked this claim was a proof of extraordinary imprudence on the part of the Turkish Government, as the sending garrisons to the Balkans would immediately neutralize the efforts that were being made to calm the populations of the two provinces.

I told Prince Lobanow, in answer to this communication, that I was glad to receive assurances of so complete and decided a character respecting the intentions of his Government as those which he had just given me.

With regard to the proposed occupation of Smyrna, I remarked that as the plan had, for the present at all events, been abandoned, it seemed unnecessary to discuss the details of the procedure that would have been followed, but it was satisfactory to find that the Russian Government had so thoroughly approved the proposal.

I was inclined to believe that the claim to garrison the Balkans had not been asserted with any immediate intention of carrying that measure into effect. It was not one which we considered likely to be advantageous to the interests of the Porte under present circumstances. In any case, if it were seriously proposed, we should think it necessary that, before it was considered, a detailed scheme should be submitted to the Powers as to the mode and means by which the Turkish Government proposed to carry it out.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 493.

Earl Granville to M. de Hengelmüller.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Foreign Office, October 22, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note of the 16th instant, stating that your Government desire that the Powers should take note of the reservations

under which they consented, in the interest of the naval demonstration, that the ships of the allied fleet should, in case of necessity, be sent to the port of Antivari and to Montenegrin waters. In reply, I have the honour to inform you that the despatch addressed to you by Baron Haymerle on the 30th ultimo, a copy of which you communicated to me, setting forth the reservations in question, will be placed on record by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 494.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received October 23.)

(No. 1001.)
My Lord, *Paris, October 22, 1880.*

I HAVE this morning had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatches of the 11th instant, Nos. 1349A, 1350A, and 1351A, respecting the language used by M. Challemel-Lacour to your Lordship and to Mr. Gladstone respecting the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that the allied squadrons should go to Smyrna.

As I had the honour to report to your Lordship, in my despatch No. 964 of the 9th instant, M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire told me on that day, positively and categorically, that the refusal of the Austrian Government to allow its squadron to take part in the proposed operation at Smyrna made it quite impossible for the French to take any part in that operation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 495.

Pro-memorid communicated to Earl Granville by M. de Hengelmüller, October 23.

BARON HAYMERLE informs me that Montenegro has accepted all the Articles of the Convention with exception of Articles I and V. Montenegro makes no difficulties about the negotiations with Bedri Bey, and will limit itself with regard to the modalities of the surrender to what is necessary for the prevention of conflicts. Baron Haymerle adds that, under these circumstances, he will make no objections if Articles I and V are dropped against the concluding of a Convention resting on the five other points, though even these do not strictly belong into a Military Convention.

Baron Haymerle telegraphs further that Assim Pasha has informed our Ambassador that categorical orders have been given last night to Riza Pasha instructing him to carry out the cession of Dulcigno to the satisfaction of all parties within six days to the latest. The two conditions concerning the *status quo* and the flag have been waived, the first under the reserve of an ulterior understanding with the Powers, the second finally.

The five Articles which are already accepted on both sides have been maintained.

Belgrave Square, October 23, 1880.

No. 496.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 23, 1·30 A.M.)

(No. 133.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October 22, 1880, 6 P.M.*

FOLLOWING is the substance of the draft of a Convention presented by the Turkish Delegate to-day; he, however, first declared that Turkish authorities could only treat for a pacific cession, and on no account for a delivery of the localities:—

"Article I. Montenegrin troops for the occupation to march during the twelve days following the signature of the Convention.

"Art. II. Montenegrin Commander to receive twenty-four hours' notice before entry of his troops from the Turkish Commander.

"Art. III. Five first Articles of Montenegrin Project to be embodied in present Convention.

"Art. IV. As on the Mazura there are no Turkish troops, the Montenegrins must enter into the Dulcigno district by Veli Gorana, whence they are to proceed towards the town. When at 1,000 metres, the Turks will evacuate their positions and retire within their new frontier. The Ottoman troops at St. Nicolas and other points will retire in the same manner on the approach of the Montenegrins.

"Art. V. When the town has been occupied the Montenegrin Commander will immediately deliver a declaration to that effect to the Turkish Commander.

"Art. VI. Ottoman Government will in no way be responsible for what may occur in the said district after its evacuation by its troops.

"Art. VII. Article IV of the Convention may be modified on demand of the Ottoman Commander, should the latter see fit.

"Art. VIII. To avoid bloodshed, Ottoman and Montenegrin troops may carry out a combined movement, to be agreed upon beforehand between the two Commanders. They may, should it be needful, prolong term fixed by the 1st Article."

Montenegrin Government is deliberating another counter-project.

(Sent to Constantinople and Admiral.)

No. 497.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 23, 7·30 P.M.)

(No. 134.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October* 23, 1880, 11 A.M.

FOLLOWING is substance of the instructions sent this morning to the Montenegrin Delegate:—

Although Ottoman Delegate has accepted the five [group wrong; ? condition]s of Montenegrin counter-proposal, still Montenegrin Government cannot agree to the [group wrong; ? technical] details of Bey's new project; it therefore—

1. Insists on regular and pacific delivery of town and district.

2. Hopes Turkish Delegate will revert to term of three days originally proposed by him for effecting surrender.

3. Military arrangements in condition 4 of second Turkish proposals are unacceptable, as the road to Dulcigno passes over the heights of [group wrong] Mazura, now fortified and occupied by Albanians, who might interfere with peaceable delivery if the Montenegrin troops were obliged to advance by the roundabout road indicated. Asks that all positions now occupied by Albanians be held by regular troops to insure regular delivery.

4. Has never wished to hold the Porte responsible for what may happen in the district with its actual population after once having entered into possession, but requires that Porte shall conform itself to its international obligations, and be responsible for all aggressions, &c., from the side of Albania during delivery and after the occupation.

5. Concurring in idea of the 8th Article of the Turkish proposal to avoid bloodshed, believes that this can only be secured by settling all details at once, therefore discussions when military movements have commenced [group wrong; ? should be] as much as possible avoided.

As soon as above five points are accepted in principle, the Delegates can work out the details of the delivery.

(Sent to Therapia and Admiral.)

No. 498.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 23, 10 P.M.)

(No. 135.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October* 23, 1880, 11·30 A.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 131, Ottoman Delegate has informed Montenegrin Delegate that he can enter absolutely into no negotiations about details or delivery.

Handed in this afternoon a written reply in this sense.

(Sent to Admiral and Constantinople.)

No. 499.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 23, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 136.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October* 23, 1880, 2 P.M.

I AM authorized by Prince Nicholas to inform your Lordship, with reference to my telegram No. 134 of to-day, that His Highness would make no difficulties whatever about advancing into the ceded district if he was not convinced that all the proceedings of the Turkish authorities of Scutari are merely undertaken for gaining time for the completion of their plans against Montenegro. If the Porte will only enter into a formal engagement with the Powers in the sense of Article No. 4 mentioned in my telegram [? wrong], His Highness would order occupation without any further threats [*sic*].

From Scutari it is reported that Riza Pasha, whilst publicly proclaiming the necessity of surrender, secretly urges the Albanians to resist, and the terms of Article No. 4 (see my telegram No. 133) clearly reveals a trap to place Montenegrins in power of the Albanians on the Mazura.

No result can be expected from mission of Turkish Delegate, as he is not empowered like his Montenegrin colleague to really negotiate. He is merely a bearer of conditions evidently drawn up for the purpose of being rejected.

All the Representatives of the Powers [? here] agree in considering the conduct of Montenegrin Government, although prudent, conciliatory in the extreme.

(Sent to Admiral and Constantinople.)

No. 500.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 714.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 23, 1880, 7·40 P.M.

WOULD there be any use in our making a demand that measures should be taken to prevent Albanians crossing the Boyana, or shall we do best to continue simply to press for cession of Dulcigno without going into particulars?

No. 500*.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 630. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 23, 1880.

IT has occurred to me that there might be some advantage in your calling upon the Porte to take measures to prevent the Albanians from crossing the Boyana, but in case your Excellency is of opinion that the best course to pursue is simply to press for the cession of Dulcigno without entering into particulars, I have telegraphed to ascertain your views on this point, before sending definite instructions to your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 501.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 24, 8 A.M.)

(No. 137.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October* 23, 1880, 6 P.M.

MY telegram No. 135.

Ottoman Delegate's answer offers to reduce term from twelve to eight days, but maintains all the other propositions mentioned in my telegram No. 133 of yesterday, and especially Articles Nos. 4, 7, and 8, laying stress on the possibility of resistance by the natives.

He says that, if not accepted, negotiations must be suspended till 27th, and resumed at Antivari or Konito.

Montenegrin Delegate ordered to reply that if delivery will be really carried out, there is no objection to the eight days; but the very difficulties indicated by the Bey oblige Montenegrin Government to maintain its proposals.

The Ottoman Delegate returns to Scutari.

The Montenegrin Government will address a note to the Representatives of the Powers with a draft of a Convention which it will suggest, after approval, should be submitted by the Ambassadors to the Porte for acceptance.

(Sent to Admiral and Constantinople.)

No. 502.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 24, 8 A.M.)

(No. 36.)
(Telegraphic.) *Baosich, October* 23, 1880, 6·20 P.M.

I HAVE received telegrams from [group wrong] up to late on Friday night. These telegrams report conversations with Turkish Delegate. The impression which they give me is that the Turkish Delegate is negotiating in such a manner as to stave off any [group wrong; ? immediate] conclusion, and to be ready either for the cession or else for breaking off the affair according as orders may be received.

No. 503.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 24, 9 A.M.)

(No. 330.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 23, 1880, 11·55 P.M.

STATEMENT by Minister to-day as to Dulcigno had no clear ring.

They carefully used the word "cession." In reply to question of First Dragoman, Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that the time would depend upon circumstances and Riza Pasha's discretion, who could know better than Porte time necessary for effecting cession. Minister further stated that no answer had been received from Riza Pasha on the subject of the instructions sent to him.

I shall press Minister again on Monday. Several colleagues will do the same.

No. 504.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 24, 12·30 A.M.)

(No. 212. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, October* 23, 1880, 5·45 P.M.

M. JOMINI has just read me following extract from a private letter from M. de Giers, dated 19th instant:—"Assure Mr. Plunkett that we will follow England to the utmost limit which may be possible without compromising our good relations with our two big neighbours."

M. Jomini fears the end will be that, the Sultan having handed over Dulcigno, the question of the lake will be left undecided; the fleets will disperse; the other two questions will be adjourned indefinitely; and this triumph of the Sultan will be, in his Excellency's opinion, all the work of Austria.

M. Jomini expresses great admiration of the manner in which your Lordship has kept the Powers working together for so long under such difficult circumstances.

He says that the only hope for the Christians is in the continuation of the exertions of Great Britain.

No. 505.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 24, 4 P.M.)

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October* 24, 1880, 9 A.M.

OTTOMAN Delegate returned to Scutari last night, but talked of returning this afternoon. Mr. Summa telegraphs me, under date of yesterday, that it is his firm opinion, although Riza Pasha has commenced to urge surrender of Dulcigno, that

Albanians will now not be persuaded by him. A messenger with letters from Pasha urging moderation has been shot.

(Repeated to Therapia and Admiral.)

No. 506.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 24, 4 P.M.)

(No. 186.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 24, 1880, 2·30 P.M.

THE draft Convention given in Mr. Green's telegram, repeated in your Lordship's No. 783 to me, appears to the Austrian Government to be acceptable.

No. 507.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 24, 4 P.M.)

(No. 187.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, October* 24, 1880, 2·20 P.M.

BARON HAYMERLE is not at present prepared to say what he would propose if the Turks play [? false] about Dulcigno, but as the Sultan has promised categorically that Dulcigno shall be given up on the 27th instant, he thinks that we must wait to see if it is done.

No. 508.

Mr. Gould to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 24, 11 P.M.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, October* 24, 1880, 9·12 P.M.

IN consequence of the presentation of a fresh note from the Austrian Government renewing former demands and threats in respect to commercial matters, M. Ristich and all his colleagues have tendered their resignation.

Prince Milan, who favours submission, is endeavouring to form a new Administration, but public opinion is so strongly against his views that the position of affairs has become extremely critical, both as regards the foreign relations and internal condition of the country.

No. 509.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 25.)

(No. 324. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, October* 8, 1880.

THIS morning Prince Nicholas sent for me and informed me that he had been discussing with my Austrian and Russian colleagues the prospect of the early departure of the combined fleet now in Teodo Bay for the Ægean Sea and the probable postponement of the surrender of the district of Dulcigno.

His Highness said that Colonel Thoemmel and M. Yonine had both strongly advised him to disband the force collected in the neighbourhood of Antivari, in order not only to put an end to the heavy expense which the Principality was incurring for its subsistence, but also to enable a part of the men to be employed in terminating, before the commencement of winter, the carriage-road between Cettinjé and Cattaro.

I admitted the value of the arguments of my colleagues, but I suggested to the Prince that the withdrawal of his troops from the Albanian frontier, immediately it was known that it had been found necessary to exercise pressure on the Porte elsewhere than at Dulcigno, might weaken the measures contemplated by the Powers, and which were still intended to effect a prompt solution of the Albano-Montenegrin frontier question. The retirement of His Highness' force might encourage the Albanians to think that it had been brought about by their menacing attitude, or the Porte might endeavour to prove that Montenegro is prepared to accept tacitly its present borders the moment the Powers abstain from supporting its pretensions. I urged the Prince not to give a new turn to

affairs by any precipitate action on his part, and to patiently await the result of the deliberations of the European Governments.

His Highness replied that he would be guided by my advice.

The Prince then proceeded to explain to me the very critical position in which his country had been placed through the constantly hostile front assumed towards it by the Turkish Government since the conclusion of the Treaty of Berlin. His Highness assured me if the present state of things lasted much longer he would either have to apply for pecuniary assistance to the Great Powers, or he would be unable to honour the financial engagements he had entered into with the mercantile houses at Trieste for the requisite supplies for his troops.

As the Prince let me infer that he hoped when the Powers were enforcing the settlement of the frontier question they would also call upon the Porte to reimburse the charges which it had obliged the Principality to incur, I trust your Lordship will not disapprove my having at once informed His Highness that I was convinced Her Majesty's Government would reject, with the greatest firmness, the remotest attempt to introduce any fresh issues in the settlement of the present difficulties, and that I advised His Highness to accept as inevitable the financial obligations which the standing of Montenegro as an independent State imposed upon it.

Prince Nicholas thanked me for the frankness of my language, and requested me to consider our conversation as a private and friendly discussion having no real end in view. He only wished Her Majesty's Government to understand that his gratitude towards it would always make him ready to study with the greatest consideration its wishes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 510.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No 325. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, October 11, 1880.*

KHALID BEY, the Ottoman Envoy here, requested me yesterday to speak to the Montenegrin Government with reference to the contemplated expulsion of some North Albanian shopkeepers established in Cettinjé and in other places in the Principality, and who, his Excellency assured me, had done nothing to deserve such treatment.

This morning an occasion offered for me to speak on the subject to the Prince, and His Highness told me that one or two of the men alluded to were acting as spies for the League at Scutari, and in any other country but Montenegro would have long ago been shot or otherwise executed for their treasonable conduct. His Highness, however, agreed with me that, at the present moment, it would be impolitic to change the very tolerant attitude which his Government had assumed towards the Albanians within its borders, and he led me to understand that the persons compromised would be left unmolested.

When I communicated this to Khalid Bey he thanked me, but at the same time launched out in violent language against the Montenegrin Government for the alleged ill-treatment of the Mahommedans in the newly-acquired territories, and for the refusal to permit Ottoman Consuls to reside at Podgoritza and Antivari.

I will not trouble your Lordship with all the facts which I was obliged to bring to Khalid Bey's knowledge to make him comprehend the injustice of his accusations; and, with regard to his statement that the Powers had never moved to obtain a single right secured at Berlin for the inhabitants of the annexed districts, I reminded him that it was through my very energetic representations that Prince Nicholas had foregone his pretension to exclude the inhabitants of the Kraïna and Antivari from their homes, and that thus upwards of 9,000 Mussulmans, who had fled during the war, were able to return to those districts.

I further told the Turkish Envoy that he might always count on the support of the British Representative in Montenegro to obtain the observance to the letter of all the clauses of the Treaty of Berlin covering the interests of Mahommedans in the Principality.

His Excellency has now informed me that he has telegraphed to the Porte my assurances as a further reason for it not to hesitate to accept the necessity of the transfer of the Dulcigniotes to Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 511.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 468. Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 2, 1880.*

IN the course of conversation this afternoon, Baron Jomini told me that Russia has advanced 1,000,000 roubles to the Prince of Montenegro to enable him to purchase improved arms for his troops.

His Excellency said that the Russian Government had informed the Austrian Government, who not only have raised no objection to arms being brought across the Austrian territory to Montenegro, but have even given permission to the Prince to purchase them, if he likes, in the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 512.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 471.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 14, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note which, in accordance with your Lordship's telegram No. 797 of the 12th instant, I have addressed to Baron Jomini conveying to his Excellency the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for the cordial co-operation afforded by the Russian Naval Commander to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 512.

Mr. Plunkett to Baron Jomini.

M. le Baron, *St. Petersburgh, October $\frac{14}{26}$, 1880.*

IN accordance with instructions which I have received from Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with great satisfaction from the Reports sent home by Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour in command of the allied fleet now stationed in the Adriatic, how friendly and cordial have been the relations between him and the Commander of the Imperial naval force in those waters, and how willingly the Russian officers have co-operated with the Admiral in making arrangements for the proposed naval demonstration at Dulcigno.

Her Majesty's Government feel convinced that it is thanks to this cordial co-operation of the Russian and other Commanders that a conclusion has been brought about which they trust, will make any further demonstration of force unnecessary.

In requesting your Excellency to be so good as to communicate to the proper Department of the Imperial Government the satisfaction with which the Government of the Queen has received these reports from Admiral Seymour, I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 513.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 473A. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 8, 1880.*

BARON JOMINI, in discussing this afternoon the Sultan's proposal of the 4th instant, said that the Russian Government regard it in the same light as Her Majesty's Government, and that I might be sure Russia would follow England wherever the latter thought proper to lead.

There was but one point, his Excellency said, on which he foresaw the possibility that a difference of opinion might arise between Russia and Great Britain.

The Sultan, in his reply of the 4th, had reasserted his Treaty right to place Turkish garrisons in the Balkans.

It was undeniable that the Treaty of Berlin, for the full execution of which the Powers were making such exertions, did secure this right to the Sultan, and it would, his Excellency added, be difficult to force the Sultan to execute those portions of the Treaty which were disadvantageous to him, and to prevent his enforcing those few which were to his advantage.

At the same time, his Excellency went on to say, it was impossible to allow Turkish garrisons again in the Balkans. The first Turkish soldier moved in that direction would be the signal for the rising which all equally deprecated, and the end of which must be the early destruction of the arrangements sanctioned for those provinces by the Treaty of Berlin.

I said I had no instructions from your Lordship upon this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 514.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 474.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 12, 1880.

ON the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 514 of the 7th instant, I called on Baron Jomini, and communicated to him in the Confidential note, copy of which is herewith inclosed, the draft of instructions which Her Majesty's Government propose addressing to the Commander of the allied fleet, in case the Powers agree to transfer their ships from the Adriatic to Smyrna.

Baron Jomini thanked me for the communication. He said he had already seen the draft, and that he approved of it entirely. He had received it through Prince Lobanow, and was having it translated for transmission to M. de Giers, who, he had no doubt, would also approve.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 514.

Mr. Plunkett to Baron Jomini.

(Most Confidential.)
M. le Baron, *St. Petersburgh, October* 12, 1880.

IN compliance with instructions received from Earl Granville I have the honour to communicate, in strict confidence, to your Excellency, a copy of that draft of the instructions which Her Majesty's Government propose to issue for the guidance of the Commander of the allied fleet, if the Powers concur in the proposal which Her Majesty's Government have submitted to them for the transfer of the fleet from the Adriatic to Smyrna, and I am further to beg your Excellency will be so good as to inform me whether the Imperial Government would be willing to adopt the same form of instructions.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 515.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 475. Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October* 12, 1880.

AFTER expressing his opinion, as reported in my previous despatch No. 474, on the instructions which Her Majesty's Government propose to address to the Commander-in-chief of the vessels which may be sent to Smyrna, Baron Jomini asked me whether Her Majesty's Government knew for certain that Italy would still send her ships there

when she saw that Austria, Germany, and France had refused to take an active part in the occupation of that port.

I reminded his Excellency that I had, by your Lordship's instructions, already informed him of the energetic language in which Count Maffei had accepted the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, as reported in Mr. Macdonell's telegram No. 809 of the 14th instant, and I had since heard of nothing which showed any change in the views of the Italian Government.

Baron Jomini said he did not attach to Count Maffei's words as much importance as your Lordship appeared to do; moreover, the situation now was no longer what it was when that language was held. The proposal which Count Maffei had then in view was a united move of all the six squadrons to Smyrna; whereas now three had already drawn back, and offered only their moral support.

Baron Jomini trusted Italy would not hesitate. An occupation of Smyrna by the three Powers, acting in the name of all, would have a totally different effect from an occupation by England and Russia. However much they might be supposed to act in the name of the other Powers, a joint action of Great Britain and Russia alone would excite such suspicion both in Austria and Germany that he was not sure the Emperor would still consent to send his squadron under such circumstances.

The object and desire of Russia was to follow the lead of Her Majesty's Government, and to act with them loyally in everything; but, before the Emperor could embark on so serious a step as a joint action in Turkey with Great Britain alone, it would be necessary that His Majesty should weigh well what might be the possible consequences, and that he should have a clear idea of what Her Majesty's Government were prepared to do in case the Turkish authorities at Smyrna should fire on the fleet.

This would be war. How far would Her Majesty's Government be prepared to go on such a path?

Besides, inquired his Excellency, are Her Majesty's Government themselves prepared to go to Smyrna with Russia alone, and as the mandatories only of the other Powers?

I said his Excellency was going beyond the point where my instructions would enable me to give a definite reply; but that, speaking unofficially, I could say that, as far as I knew of the intentions and wishes of my Government, they were prepared to go to Smyrna with Russia and Italy as the mandatories of the Great Powers, in the same way as France had gone to the Lebanon in 1861.

That Her Majesty's Government considered the guiding star of the Powers now should be the determination to show a united and bold front to the Sultan, and that with united and firm action (even if not with active action from all) the Porte must finally yield, and the war which we all equally deprecated would be avoided.

In the course of this conversation Baron Jomini several times expressed great dissatisfaction with the Austrian Government. Not only were they now breaking up the European concert, but it was they who were secretly feeding Her Majesty's Government with all kinds of fanciful tales about Russian intrigues in the Balkans, and exciting your Lordship to make representations here, which only produced irritation and mutual distrust, when the real desire of the Russian Government is to be on the best terms with Great Britain.

He recognized in many of the terms employed by Her Majesty's Government precisely the same words as were used to him by Count Kalnoky, and there were other signs of the prompting of Austria in this matter, which, however, his Excellency did not further describe.

I reminded his Excellency he was now raising what unfortunately is a sore subject, and one which I would prefer not to discuss.

If it had so happened that Count Kalnoky and your Lordship had recounted the same facts in the same language, that would sooner prove that the facts were as reported, since two different people used exactly the same language to describe them, than that one Government had been prompted by the other.

Baron Jomini then said, "But how can we then convince you that we are not flooding Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia with Russian arms, Russian officers, and I know not what? Is it our interest at this moment to have an explosion there? Cannot you see that it would be the worst possible time for such a question to be brought to life? Do what you will, Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria must one day be united. It is inevitable; and it is certainly not in the interest of Russia, who desires only the real welfare of those provinces, to spoil their prospects by premature explosion. Cannot Europe see this as clearly as daylight?"

As his Excellency insisted on an answer, I replied that I could well see the interest

which Russia had in preventing a premature explosion in the Balkans, but some people feared Russia might consider it a convenience to have the explosive materials collected and ready at hand, to which at the proper moment she might apply the match. As regards the various cases which Her Majesty's Government had had occasion to bring to the notice of the Imperial Government, it was true that, as a general rule, they had been denied by the Russian Government; but in many cases documentary proof of the correctness of our assertions had been subsequently produced, and had shown the Imperial Government that it was they and not Her Majesty's Government who had been misinformed.

Baron Jomini then again alluded to the late report, which I had forwarded to him, of the engagement of 149 Russian non-commissioned officers in the Eastern Roumelian militia, and stated that an official Report from the Minister of War proved satisfactorily that it was entirely incorrect. Instead of 149 Russians, only 4 had been sent, and they had gone to replace 11 other Russian officers whose time of service had expired. Therefore, on the whole, instead of an increase, there had been in reality a diminution of the number of Russians in the Eastern Roumelian militia.

Baron Jomini had warned me at the commencement of this conversation that he was speaking only privately and confidentially; but his manner and language were more guarded than usual, and I feel convinced that he was speaking by instructions from Livadia.

His manner was cordial and pleasant, and, in spite of the delicacy of the subject, our conversation was of the most friendly character.

The tone adopted by his Excellency was one of regret at the blindness of Great Britain, who still seems not to believe frankly in the perfect honesty of Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No 516.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 476. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 13, 1880.*

REFERRING again to his conversation with me yesterday, as reported in my despatch No. 475, Confidential, of the 12th instant, Baron Jomini was good enough to read me this afternoon a despatch which M. de Giers addressed on the 27th September/9th October to Prince Lobanow, and which his Excellency will also read to your Lordship. In this despatch M. de Giers reviews the present state of the relations between Great Britain and Russia, and criticizes, somewhat bitterly, the continued suspicion of Russian action in the Balkan Peninsula which is displayed by your Lordship's remarks to Prince Lobanow (related in your Lordship's despatch No. 480 of the 22nd instant), and by the note addressed by me to Baron Jomini animadverting upon the conduct of the Russian Military Attaché at Philippopoli, and calling attention to the excessive number of Russian officers and non-commissioned officers now taking service in the Eastern Roumelian militia.

The despatch is extremely long, and was only read to me hurriedly. Therefore, as Prince Lobanow will communicate its substance to your Lordship, I shall not attempt to reproduce it here.

I thanked Baron Jomini, and reserved to your Lordship the right of criticizing the despatch when Prince Lobanow had communicated it to you. I pointed out, however, that, when the Emperor and M. de Giers are at Livadia, there is no mode of communicating to his Excellency lengthy details, except in writing; therefore I regretted to see that his Excellency should have complained, in the early part of his despatch, that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires had thought fit to bring to his notice, in an official note, complaints against the conduct of a Russian Agent.

Baron Jomini acknowledged the truth of my remark.

His Excellency then went over much of the ground which he traversed yesterday, and again asked me what Her Majesty's Government hope to obtain by this continued, and, as he maintained, unfounded suspicion of Russia in the Balkans? It would lead to nothing except useless recrimination and ill-feeling; and this at the very moment when Russia was most anxious to live on the best terms with Great Britain.

I ventured to suggest that, at a moment when all the Powers were taking such serious steps to enforce against the Sultan those portions of the Treaty of Berlin

which were disadvantageous to him, it was impossible for them to stand passive spectators of constant breaches of those portions of the Treaty which were to his advantage.

The Emperor no doubt was not cognizant of how far some of his subjects were disobeying his orders, and all Her Majesty's Government were doing was to point out these cases, and thus put in the hands of the Imperial Government information which would enable them to check intrigues of which they also professed to disapprove.

Baron Jomini again insisted upon the certainty of an early outbreak in Bulgaria and in Eastern Roumelia, if the Sultan should insist on his Treaty right to occupy the Balkans. Russia desired sincerely to keep the Christians in those countries quiet, but, in face of such a measure as a Turkish occupation of the Balkans, no Power on earth could restrain them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 517.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 478. Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 15, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 473 and 476 of the 8th and 13th instant respectively, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Baron Jomini has also stated to the German Chargé d'Affaires that, in his opinion, Russia should decline to go to Smyrna with England, unless there be also at least one other Power taking an active part in the proceedings.

On every occasion lately when I have spoken to Baron Jomini he has called my attention to the certainty of an outbreak if the Sultan revives the question of his Treaty right to place Turkish garrisons in the Balkans, and I learn from my colleagues that his Excellency holds similar language to them.

This persistance in speaking on this subject cannot be accidental.

It may either denote an honest desire on the part of Russia to warn the Powers of the presence of a danger in order that measures may be taken to avert it, or it might also be that, in view of the apparent collapse of the Sultan before the demands of united Europe, and the consequent absence of motive for continuing the naval demonstration, an excuse may be required for the explosion which some people consider to be impending.

The prospect of an abandonment of the naval demontration is seen with regret by most of the Russian press. The papers to-day urge that the demonstration must be continued until the Greek and Armenian questions are also settled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 518.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 484. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 18, 1880.*

I TOOK occasion this afternoon to mention to Baron Jomini the substance of Mr. Goschen's telegram to Mr. Green, which your Lordship was good enough to repeat to me in your telegram No. 820 of yesterday, and I urged his Excellency to move M. de Giers to give to the Prince of Montenegro similar advice, not afford any pretext to the Porte for the allegation of fresh excitement.

It was now all important, I said, not to furnish any excuse whatever to the Sultan for delaying the cession of Dulcigno, and therefore I hoped, not only that no needless difficulties would be raised by the Prince, but that, as far as possible, he would shut his eyes to things to which under other circumstances it might perhaps be his duty to stop.

Baron Jomini, who had heard already of this affair from M. de Novikoff, objected that the Prince of Montenegro must take the necessary measures to prevent the Mussul-

mans within his territory helping the Albanians outside; but eventually his Excellency said he would suggest to M. de Giers that it would be well to impress again on the Prince of Montenegro the importance of his being prudent.

As I was leaving the Foreign Department I met Chakir Pasha, who told me he had come to complain to the Russian Government of the arrest of forty Mussulmans in the neighbourhood of Podgoritza. These had been made by the Prince of Montenegro contrary, as his Excellency maintained, to law, and in violation of direct stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin. I did not discuss the matter with the Turkish Ambassador.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 519.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 490. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 19, 1880.*

ON the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 816 of the 16th instant, I at once informed Baron Jomini that Her Majesty's Government had instructed Mr. Goschen to inquire what progress has been made in the arrangements for carrying out the promised cession of the Dulcigno territory, and whether the Turkish Agent at Cettigné has been instructed to make a communication respecting the cession to the Prince of Montenegro, and I expressed the hope that the Imperial Government would take the same view as your Lordship of the present situation, and would instruct M. de Novikow to hold the same language as Her Majesty's Ambassador.

I have just received from Baron Jomini the private note, of which a copy is herewith inclosed, stating that he hears from Livadia that instructions in the sense desired by your Lordship have been sent to M. de Novikow.

Your Lordship will, however, notice that M. de Giers is of opinion that it would now be necessary to repeat the threat of ulterior measures if the cession does not take place within a given period, and Baron Jomini begs me to submit to your Lordship this idea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

Inclosure in No. 519.

Baron Jomini to Mr. Plunkett.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *St. Pétersbourg, le 7 Octobre*, 1880.

Un télégramme de Livadia m'informe que l'ordre a été donné à M. de Novikow de s'associer à la démarche prescrite à Mr. Goschen, pour demander à la Porte où en est l'affaire de la cession de Dulcigno. Le Cabinet Impérial pense qu'il serait nécessaire de répéter la menace de mesures ultérieures, si la cession n'avait [sic] pas lieu à un délai fixé. Vous êtes prié de soumettre cette idée à Lord Granville.

Mille hommages, &c.
(Signé) JOMINI

No. 520.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 491. Very Confidential. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 19, 1880.*

WITH reference to the suggestion of M. de Giers, reported in my preceding despatch, that it might be necessary to repeat to the Sultan the threat of active measures if Dulcigno is not ceded within a given period, I think it proper to mention that Baron Jomini again yesterday expressed to me his opinion that Russia could not join England in bringing active pressure on the Porte unless there was a third Power also taking an active part in such measures.

A joint action of Great Britain and Russia, no matter how it might be brought about, will, in his Excellency's opinion, excite an amount of suspicion in Austria and in Germany, which it would be very undesirable for Russia to awaken.

He still seems to think that Italy will hang back when she sees the strong line taken by Baron Haymerle, and will find at the last moment some excuse for not sending her ships.

Should this be the case Baron Jomini considers that Russia would have to adopt a similar policy, and would join the other Powers in constituting Great Britain their mandatory, and in authorizing her to take active measures against the Porte, in the name of Europe.

I feel doubtful whether Baron Jomini, in coming back so frequently to this idea, not only with me but also with some of my colleagues, is really expressing solely his own view of what should be the policy of Russia. However, he always says it is so, and it has not appeared to me desirable to enter on such a discussion without instructions.

It is proper that I should add that Baron Jomini never omits an opportunity of repeating that it is the sincere desire of Russia to act in complete unison with Her Majesty's Government in the East.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 521.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 495. Extender.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 20, 1880.*

BARON JOMINI expressed to me this afternoon the regret with which he had seen the leading article of the "Times" of yesterday, which stated that if the European concert could not be maintained, England was not prepared to go any farther.

He said that this assertion of the "Times" would do immense harm at Constantinople. Musurus Pasha was at the bottom of the Sultan's obstinate resistance to the will of Europe. He had steadily assured the Sultan that he need not be afraid of England; at the last moment the English people would not follow Her Majesty's present advisers so far as to permit them to make war upon Turkey. It was he, therefore, who was the chief advocate for resistance, and this article in the "Times" would, in Baron Jomini's opinion, do infinite damage by showing the Sultan how correctly Musurus Pasha had judged of Great Britain.

I said I feared his Excellency was attributing too much importance to the telegraphic summary published this morning. Her Majesty's Government were not responsible for what our newspapers choose to say.

I could assure him that I had not yet seen any symptoms of Her Majesty's Government wavering in the policy which they had traced for themselves, and that they were as determined as ever to act with the other Powers in forcing the Sultan to accept the decision of Europe, and act up to his engagements.

His Excellency said that never was it more important than at the present moment to present a bold and united front to the Porte. The delays which the Sultan was now making by advancing impossible demands in the proposed Military Convention with Montenegro was a fresh proof of his bad faith, and showed the advantage he was taking of the refusal of Austria to join in active measures against him.

I said his Excellency's view as to the last proposal made by Bedri Bey were shared by Her Majesty's Government.

Baron Jomini said he hoped your Lordship would see the necessity of the inquiry he had made yesterday, as to the time having now arrived for repeating to the Sultan the threat of an appeal to force if Dulcigno be not surrendered within a given period.

I said I had at once forwarded his suggestion to your Lordship, and would communicate the decision of Her Majesty's Government when it reached me.

The Russian newspapers of this morning contain no editorial comments on the progress of events in the East.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 522.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 496. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, October 20, 1880.*

IN his despatch No. 554 of the 11th ultimo, which reached me in the last Confidential print, Sir Henry Elliot states that the distrust of Russia entertained at Vienna is deep-rooted and profound.

It is my duty to report that these words describe, with equal accuracy, the feelings with which Austria is at present regarded by Russia.

I have, however, good reason to believe that Germany is anxious to calm the antipathy existing between the Austrian and Russian Courts, and, although I believe her efforts have as yet met with little or no success, the report which reached your Lordship some time back, from Mr. Stephen, that a secret understanding with regard to the Balkans had been proposed between Russia and Austria, and a report which has lately reached me confidentially from another source, which sometimes is well-informed, that a secret understanding on this point has been come to, may only be the precursors of the turn which a collapse in the unity of action of the Powers at Constantinople might bring about.

At present I find in Baron Jomini decided irritation against Austria for refusing to proceed to active measures against Turkey, and, also, he displays immense suspicion as to the real motives of her refusal. Your Lordship, however, knows that his Excellency is not always well informed of what is going on at Livadia, and there is little doubt that if England also should decline to assume a responsibility not shared by the other Powers, Russian policy may be expected to seek elsewhere for the means of getting a step nearer the traditional object of her ambition.

While, however, reporting my conviction that Germany is trying to bring about a better understanding between Russia and Austria, I am bound to add that the feeling entertained by Germans here of the Russian Government and people appears to be one of mingled antipathy and suspicion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. PLUNKETT.

No. 523.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 483. Extender.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 19, 1880.*

PRINCE BISMARCK, to whom I mentioned the substance of your Lordship's telegraphic instructions to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople of the 16th instant, told me that he fully agreed as to the necessity of putting continued diplomatic pressure on the Porte until the promised cession of Dulcigno was effected, and the more so since Count Hatzfeldt had telegraphed yesterday that the Porte was seeking new excuses for delay in accusing the Prince of Montenegro of injustice and oppression towards the Albanian inhabitants of Spuz and Podgoritza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 524.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25.)

(No. 487. Extender.)
My Lord, *Berlin, October 21, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the German Ambassador at Constantinople will be directed to support the instructions which have been sent to his Austrian colleagues with regard to the Articles of the Convention proposed by the Porte to Montenegro, in connection with the cession of Dulcigno, which, with the exception of the seventh, are considered to be quite unsuitable for a military Convention, and calculated to produce endless difficulties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 525.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25, 6:30 P.M.)

(No. 140.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October 25, 1880, 11 A.M.*

A LETTER to the following effect has been received from the Turkish Delegate at Scutari:—

Riza Pasha, having commenced the necessary measures for the cession of town and district in question by pacific means, cannot proceed with the working out of the technical details before the 28th instant. Ottoman Delegate hereby asks that a Montenegrin Delegate may be at Kunia on the above date.

A reply will be immediately sent by the Montenegrin Commander-in-chief to Riza Pasha that he himself will be on the Dulcigno frontier at Kunia on the day mentioned, but he asks that Riaz Pasha also shall be there to arrange details and avoid necessity of references, [? as] it is most desirable that the Porte should send orders to Scutari to accept this proposal and set aside the intriguing action of Bedri Bey.

(Sent to Admiral and Constantinople.)

No. 526.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25, 6 P.M.)

(No. 141.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October 25, 1880, noon.*

PRINCE NICHOLAS requests me to ask your Lordship, as he wishes to have undeniable proofs of the desire of Montenegro to terminate present difficulties, to direct Captain Sale to be present on the 28th instant at the meeting between the Ottoman and Montenegrin Commanders-in-chief. A similar request will be addressed through Austrian, Russian, and Italian Representatives to their Governments, the other Representatives being absent.

Captain Sale can easily reach the place mentioned by Antivari.

(Sent to Admiral and Constantinople.)

No. 527.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 25, 11·15 P.M.)

(No. 142.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October 25, 1880, 6 P.M.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 141 of this morning, Montenegrin Government has considered that it would be only advisable for the European officers to be present in the case of the Porte directing some other person than Riza Pasha to negotiate on the 28th.

(Repeated to Admiral and Ambassador.)

No. 528.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 632.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October 25, 1880.*

IN your despatch No. 400, Very Confidential, of the 28th ultimo, your Excellency requests that you may be informed of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government as to the question, which remains hitherto unsettled, of the amount due to the Porte, either in the shape of Tribute or as a proportion of the Ottoman Debt, by the Principalities which have lately become partly or entirely free from her control.

By the 1Xth Article of the Treaty of Berlin it is laid down that, at the close of the first year of the working of the new organization in Bulgaria, the Powers should determine the amount of annual Tribute to be paid to the Porte by the Principality and its share of the Public Debt of the Empire. In the case of Montenegro and Servia, it was made the duty of the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople to arrange with the Porte the portion of the Public Debt with which these Principalities should be charged in con-

sequence of the accessions of Turkish territory to which they had become entitled by the Treaty.

I have to point out to your Excellency that the Powers have been unable to proceed in this matter, for, as regards Bulgaria and Servia, the mean revenue of the territory could not be calculated until the new frontiers had been finally decided upon and accepted by all parties. The awards of the Boundary Commissioners have been officially sanctioned by all the Powers, with the exception of Turkey alone, who still delays her recognition of the official Acts.

In the case of Montenegro I need hardly observe that the policy adopted by the Porte since the ratification of the Treaty of Berlin could not have been based upon a desire to bring the question of the frontier to be assigned to that Principality to an early conclusion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 529.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 585. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 25, 1880.

DURING the course of a visit which the Italian Ambassador paid me, I took the opportunity of discussing with his Excellency the present condition of Turkish affairs, and I endeavoured to ascertain the course which the Italian Government would be prepared to take in regard to the future conduct of negotiations with the Porte.

General Menabrea's language was very satisfactory. He told me that he had strongly advised his Government to continue to act with England as the best means of securing peace, urging that as long as three Powers remained in agreement, the others would be unwilling to separate themselves. He had been thanked for his advice, and informed that it was entirely in accordance with the views of the Italian Government.

I asked his Excellency whether he thought it of importance, in the event of measures of coercion becoming necessary, that such measures should not be taken by any of the Powers without a formal mandate from the rest. It seemed, I said, possible that some of the Powers, though approving generally and giving some diplomatic co-operation, might be unwilling to go the length of conferring such a mandate.

General Menabrea replied that, in his own opinion, an expression of approval came to nearly the same thing, and left greater freedom of action.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 530.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 470.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 17, 1880.

LIEUTENANT VINCENT returned from his journey through Bulgaria on the 14th instant, and has furnished me with two interesting Reports, copies of which I inclose. Mr. Vincent informs me that he has some further materials as to the organization and appearance of the Bulgarian army which he will embody in a future despatch.

Mr. Vincent appears to have discharged his duties with judgment and ability.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 530.

Lieutenant Vincent to Mr. Goschen.

(Very Confidential.)

Sir, *Therapia, October* 15, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to submit, for your Excellency's information, the following Report upon the alleged arrival of Russian officers and non-commissioned officers in Bulgaria, and upon the rumoured importation of arms and ammunition from Russia.

When the Russian troops evacuated Bulgaria, a large number of officers remained behind, in order to carry on the civil administration, until competent Bulgarians could be found, and to organize and train the militia.

Of those thus employed in the civil administration, the majority have since left the Principality, their appointments being taken up by Bulgarians. In the course of my journey, which took me through the greater part of Bulgaria, I only met with one Russian Préfet, at Schumla, the centre of a district, which is still under martial law.

With regard to those employed in the militia, their number has remained about the same as it was immediately after the Russian evacuation. Many individuals have left, but in almost every case they have been replaced by other Russian officers. With a very few exceptions, all the officers of the Bulgarian militia above the rank of lieutenant are Russian, as well as the higher officials in the Ministry of War. With regard to Russian non-commissioned officers, but a small number remained behind at the time of the Russian evacuation. The want of subordinates with some experience and military training was, however, soon felt, and since October last a large number have arrived in instalments from Russia, so that now no company or troop is without one.

It is perhaps worthy of note that the military system is precisely the same as in Russia; the words of command are given in Russian, not in Bulgarian, and all communication between the officers and men is conducted in the same language. So much does this habit of speaking Russian to officers prevail among the men, that I have been informed by both Russians and Bulgarians that when they speak to a private in Bulgarian he will almost certainly answer in Russian.

The actual number of Russian officers and non-commissioned officers in Bulgaria has, I think, been generally exaggerated. To arrive at a fairly correct estimate, the safest method has seemed to me to endeavour to ascertain the number in each of the departments of the administration, and the average number in each battalion, squadron, and battery, rather than to guess at the gross total, a system which renders all check or control impossible. It will further be necessary to add the number of those, if any, who are waiting unemployed in the Principality, in the hope of being offered appointments, or who may have been sent by the Russian Government in view of certain possible contingencies.

The Bulgarian army, as at present constituted, consists of 21 battalions of infantry, 4 squadrons of cavalry, 9 batteries of artillery, 2 companies of engineers.

I have made the following estimate of the number of Russians in each of the above units:—

	Officers.	Non-commissioned Officers or Men.
In each Battalion.		
6 officers, 10 non-commissioned officers or men × 21 battalions	126	210
In each Squadron.		
3 officers, 10 non-commissioned officers or men × 4 squadrons	12	40
In each Battery.		
3 officers, 10 non-commissioned officers or men × 9 batteries	27	90
In each Company of Engineers.		
3 officers, 15 non-commissioned officers or men × 2 companies	6	30
Staff Gendarmerie, Ministry of War, and other Offices.		
Officers	40	
Non-commissioned officers or men		40
In the Navy.		
Officers	5	
Non-commissioned officers or men		50
Total	216	460

With regard to Russian officers not regularly employed, I doubt whether there is any considerable number in Bulgaria. I was informed on good authority at Philippopoli

that forty had during the last few days gone across the frontier from East Roumelia, but I should believe this figure to be over the mark. If the total number of Russian officers in plain clothes in the Principality be set down at fifty the estimate will, I believe, be not far wrong. This would make the total number of Russian officers in Bulgaria 266, and of non-commissioned officers and men 460, in all 726.

The officers cannot in any sense be called picked men, being for the most part of indifferent character and without special ability, individuals who have failed to make a career in Russia, or who, on account of debt or of some scandal, desire to keep out of the country for a time. There are a certain number of Poles among them, who are far more popular among their Bulgarian comrades than the Russians. The Bulgarian officers number about 200, of whom 86 left the military school at Sophia in the month of August. A large proportion of the remainder have been educated in the military colleges of Russia.

It is difficult to ascertain the true feeling which exists between the Russian and Bulgarian officers. It is only natural that the latter should be a little jealous at all the well-paid appointments being in the hands of foreigners, while they are galled at the airs of superiority which the Russian officers affect with them. Two or three incidents have recently occurred which prove that their relations have become less cordial; but, so long as military advancement is left entirely dependent on Russian superiors, and the Bulgarian officer has nothing to hope but from Russian favour, it cannot be expected that he will sacrifice promotion by showing resentment.

Importation of Arms.—The real state of the case with regard to the alleged importation of arms from Russia, I believe, to be the following:—In January last the Russian Government agreed to furnish the Bulgarian Government with Berdan rifles with which to arm the militia. For this purpose 21,000 rifles would have been sufficient, but I am informed that the number actually sent up to the 1st October was 30,000. Negotiations have further been entered into with a firm of contractors for the conversion of a large number of Krinka rifles, which were until lately in the hands of the militia, but no definite arrangement has yet been arrived at.

Besides the rifles in the hands of the Central Government, the headman of every Bulgarian village has charge of an armoury containing, according to the size of the village, from twenty to fifty rifles, and a fair store of ammunition. These rifles are of the Krinka pattern, and were distributed that the villagers might have the means of protecting themselves against brigands. It is only in a few of the most disturbed districts that any were given to the Moslem villages; in the rest of the Principality Moslems are not allowed to possess arms of any kind.

In addition to the village armoury most of the Bulgarian peasants have rifles of their own, either Krinka or Martini-Peabody, and on an average from forty to fifty cartridges.

An endeavour has been made to form associations similar to the Gymnastic Societies of East Roumelia, but the people have not taken up the idea with much spirit, and it has met with but poor success. A project for creating a National Guard will be discussed during the next Session of the Chamber.

Importation of Ammunition.—It is most difficult to speak certainly with regard to the importation of ammunition, as an effectual control of information received is almost impossible. I wish, therefore, to speak with all diffidence. My belief is that, although the reports regarding the recent importation are exaggerated, there is in the Principality a quantity sufficient to supply the Bulgarian army for a two months' campaign. It is stored principally at Rustchuk, Schumla, and Tirnova, and on the Macedonian frontier at Kustendil and Dubnitza.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDGAR VINCENT, *Coldstream Guards.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 530.

Lieutenant Vincent to Mr. Goschen.

(Very Confidential.)

Therapia, October 15, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to convey to your Excellency a summary of a conversation I had with M. Zancoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister, on the 29th September, on board the Danube steamer "Sophia."

The conversation was perfectly free and informal, M. Zancoff, at the time, not knowing that I had any connection with Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

With regard to the union of Eastern Roumelia with Bulgaria, M. Zancoff said that no Ministry could remain in power in Bulgaria which did not seize the first favourable opportunity for effecting it, the desire both in Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria being universal. M. Zancoff further admitted that, if Turkey became involved in war, even with Greece, an attempt to effect the union would almost certainly be made. It would necessarily be accompanied by an endeavour to incorporate a large portion of Macedonia with the Principality; the lines of the San Stefano Treaty, he said, were constantly in the mind of every Bulgarian, and it was doubtful whether the country would be free from agitation until Bulgaria had attained those limits. He added that the condition of Macedonia was now far worse than it had ever been, and that it was impossible not to feel compassion for one's countrymen there

M. Zancoff then went on to speak of the Moslems in the Principality. He said that it had been determined they should serve in the army; if they did not like to serve, they must leave the country. He argued that privileges and immunities granted to a large section of the population were fatal to a State, and brought forward Turkey as an instance; it was absolutely necessary, he added, if Bulgaria was to be strong and stable, that all the elements of the population should be welded into one homogeneous mass.

I asked if arrangements had been made to enable the Mussulmans to have their rations separately from the Bulgarians, so that they might not be forced to eat pork, which is what they chiefly dread in serving in the Bulgarian army.

He replied that nothing had been arranged, evidently considering Mussulman prejudices matters of trifling importance, and apparently caring little whether the Moslems left the country or not. He subsequently expressed the opinion that, in fifty years, all the Moslem population would have disappeared.

With regard to the Russian officers, M. Zancoff complained that those sent were not of good class. The Emperor of Russia had tried to have better men selected, but Generals were naturally unwilling to lose their best officers. He said he had no fear of Russia ever taking Bulgaria. The Principality would be more useful to Russia, if independent, than if absorbed into the Empire. The Bulgarians, he added, will always be friendly to the Russians, both through gratitude and on account of their being also Slavs. I ventured to observe that the Servians were also Slavs, but that that fact did not seem to do much towards gaining them the affections of the Bulgarians.

He replied, "The Servians have acted as our enemies; they attempted to destroy the Bulgarian nationality; if they were attacked by Austria we would assist them, for we hate the Austrians, but in no other case could we become their allies."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDGAR VINCENT, *Coldstream Guards.*

No. 531.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 480. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 19, 1880.

WITH reference to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government to occupy Smyrna in conjunction with other Powers as a material guarantee, I think it may be useful to submit some observations to your Lordship, though the project seems for the moment to be in suspense.

It would be expedient to bear in mind that Smyrna contains amongst its population a very rough element. I have, indeed, heard it stated that the town contains the worst characters in the Levant, and it would be a question how far the local authority would be able to prevent this rough element from taking advantage of the occasion to create disturbances. There are wild and unruly tribes too in the neighbourhood of Smyrna, who, I hear, have threatened to burn the town as soon as the fleet should show itself in the offing.

It might possibly become necessary to occupy the whole town in order to insure security to life and property, however much it might be wished to occupy the port only. In any case it would be necessary to come to some kind of agreement between the responsible officer of the fleet and the Vali with regard to the conduct of affairs and the protection of life and property.

I have discussed some of the points which would arise with Colonel Wilson, whom your Lordship has thought of attaching to the Admiral in command of the fleet. He tells me that there is in front of Smyrna a broad quay with a tram-road. Along this

quay there are good houses, including the custom-house. Nearly parallel to the quay is a narrow street called Frank Street, and behind this lies the body of the town and the bazaars with very narrow, tortuous streets, in which it would be unsafe to allow small bodies of men to move about if the population were disaffected.

Colonel Wilson thinks it would be quite possible for the combined squadron to occupy the town up to Frank Street, if the Vali considered himself strong enough to maintain order in the remaining part of the town. Under the same conditions, it might also be possible to occupy the custom-house alone under a strong guard. But as the rough element in the Levant does not understand half measures, the Admiral in command would in any case have to bear in mind the possible necessity for the landing of blue-jackets and marines arising at any moment.

I have heard from Admiral Sir B. Seymour that the Commander of the "Cygnet" reports that torpedoes are being laid in the Gulf of Smyrna, but I presume as there are no batteries on shore to defend them they could be easily removed. The old forts commanding the port are, I understand, quite harmless. It is rumoured that orders have been issued to send six Krupp guns from the Dardanelles. Her Majesty's Government will receive timely notice should this intention be carried out. It is further rumoured that the three regiments of the 1st and 2nd bans of Redifs are to be called out. They give twenty-four battalions, of a minimum total strength of 7,200 men. I am, however, not disposed to give credence to this rumour without further confirmation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 532.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 482.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 19, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward to your Lordship a despatch on military matters received from Captain Swaine, Military Attaché.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 532.

Captain Swaine to Mr. Goschen.

Sir, *Therapia, October 18, 1880.*

ALTHOUGH the Turkish military forces on the Greek frontier have not changed much in their numbers since I addressed your Excellency on the subject in my despatch No. 30 of last July, I think it as well, now that the winter is about to set in, when further movements of troops by land become almost impossible, owing to the heavy rains and the absence of good roads, to give a last return of the divisions of Thessaly and Epirus, which are still under the command of Hidayet Pasha, whose head-quarters are at Larissa.

In Thessaly there are 20 battalions of infantry, giving a total of 16,000 men; the cavalry consists of 900 men; and the artillery of 8 field and 4 mountain batteries, each with 6 guns.

In Epirus there are 16 battalions of infantry, making a total of 10,000 men, with 500 cavalry, and 6 field and 7 mountain batteries.

This gives a grand total of 42 battalions, or 26,000 men infantry, 1,400 men cavalry, with 150 guns.

Captain Manega, Austrian Military Attaché, who has just returned from a tour through these provinces, tells me that the troops are in a tolerable state of efficiency, and that there are large supplies of ammunition in store at the head-quarters.

Riza Pasha, in Albania, has 13 battalions of infantry, or about 7,500 men, with 1 light field and 3 mountain batteries.

If the Dulcigno district is peaceably surrendered, 5,000 men could be spared from Riza Pasha's force to increase that on the Greek frontier.

Captain Manega also visited parts of Greece, and has come to the same conclusions respecting the Greek army that I had the honour to report to your Excellency in my despatches Nos. 33 and 34 of this year.

He reports that as yet it is not worthy to be called an army; that its numbers are exaggerated; and that it could not cope with a Turkish force even of such a moderate size as the one over the borders.

The patriotism and enthusiasm, which was conspicuous by its absence when I was in Greece last August, has in no way increased, and the nation at large does not appear to take the same interest in obtaining an increase of territory as some of her well-wishers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE.

No. 533.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 660. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 16, 1880.*

BARON HAYMERLE has at once expressed an entire disapproval of a suggestion made by the Russian Government that the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier to the east of the Lake of Scutari should be included in the arrangement to be come to between the Turkish and Montenegrin Commanders.

His Excellency says that as the Turkish authorities cannot be supposed to be furnished with instructions upon that point, weeks might be lost before the Porte could be induced to send them, and that, as after the cession of Dulcigno it will be necessary to have an international Act, or Convention, substituting it for the Corti arrangement, which departure from the original provisions of the Treaty had been sanctioned by the Powers in that manner, he thought that the proper time for dealing with the rest of the frontier would be when that Convention was being negotiated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 534.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 664. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 16, 1880.*

THE Prince of Montenegro has proposed that officers from each of the allied fleets should assist at the conferences of the Turkish and Montenegrin authorities for arranging about the cession of Dulcigno.

Baron Haymerle has not as yet returned any answer, but he does not appear favourable to the proposal, for which he does not see sufficient ground.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 535.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 668. Extender.)
My Lord, *Vienna, October 17, 1880.*

THE Russian Ambassador has been instructed to inform Baron Haymerle that his Government are quite willing to adopt his proposal that the Montenegrin frontier to the east of the Lake of Scutari, according to the line of the Commission, should be determined when the Convention substituting the Dulcigno cession for the Corti arrangement is being settled, as this will attain the object they had in view in suggesting that it should be comprised in the arrangement to be come to between the Turkish and Montenegrin Commanders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 536.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 672. Extender.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, October 19, 1880.*

BARON HAYMERLE has expressed great indignation against the Porte for the stipulations demanded by Bedri Bey in the arrangements for the cession of Dulcigno, and he considers the Prince of Montenegro well justified in refusing his assent to the first and fifth of them, and that he might indeed have rejected most of the others, which ought not to have been included in a Convention of a character so purely military as he holds the one under discussion to be.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 537.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

No. 674. Extender.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, October 20, 1880.*

I AM informed that, if the other Governments do so, the Austrian Government will direct an officer to attend the Conferences between the Turkish and Montenegrin Delegates in arranging the details of the cession of Dulcigno.

He has desired that the officer should be selected solely for his capability of giving sound advice upon a military Convention, and further, that he should not be known to have a partiality either for the Turks or Montenegrins.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 538.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 675. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, October 20, 1880.*

ALTHOUGH the Austrian Government are extremely indignant with the Porte, and have directed their Ambassador to use strong language at Constantinople with reference to its proceedings in regard to the cession of Dulcigno, and consider that the Prince of Montenegro could not possibly agree to the stipulations proposed by Bedri Bey, they do not appear to be fully satisfied with His Highness' own attitude.

The language of the Prince has latterly led to the impression that if the cession is not effected peaceably, he would be little disposed to attempt the occupation of Dulcigno by force, even if the Turkish troops were withdrawn.

According to the information received by Baron Haymerle, the number of Albanians in the neighbourhood of Dulcigno does not exceed 3,000, and although the Porte will not fulfil its engagements if it simply evacuates instead of ceding the district, his Excellency appears to consider that the Prince of Montenegro would be bound to attempt to take possession of it, in spite of the Albanian opposition, with such assistance as could be rendered by the ships, and that if he did not do so the demonstration would come to an end, according to the original understanding.

The Powers, he says, never undertook to put the Prince of Montenegro into possession of his new territory without effort or sacrifice on his part, nor to protect him in it when there from attacks by the Albanians, to which it is pretty certain that he will long be exposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 539.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 676. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, October 22, 1880.*

ALTHOUGH Count Andrassy now holds no official position, the knowledge of the influence which he may still exercise made me desirous of ascertaining his views upon the present state of affairs, and he has expressed them to me very freely in some confidential conversations.

He declared that he had not the most remote intention of embarrassing the Government in the Delegations, though he considered some of their proceedings to be very open to blame; he had told Baron Haymerle that, if he had continued Minister, no inducement would have persuaded him to join in the naval demonstration, under the conditions in which it has taken place.

Upon my observing that if Baron Haymerle had declined to take part in that measure he would have broken up the concerted action by which the Powers were endeavouring to ensure the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, the Count replied that he would not have declined it, but he would have asked whether it was proposed to adopt measures of material coercion to obtain the fulfilment of the Treaty in the points where it was being set aside in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, which were of infinitely greater importance than the few miles of territory to be added to Montenegro. If he had been answered that it was intended to enforce the whole Treaty, *i.e.*, the provisions which were in favour of Turkey as well as those which were against her, although he thought that the Congress of Berlin had wisely decided not to undertake its execution, he might possibly have consented to join in the demonstration.

But if he had been told that no coercion was intended except against Turkey, he would firmly have refused to have anything to do with it.

Notwithstanding the foolish reports circulated some weeks ago, there is no doubt that Count Andrassy enjoys the Emperor's confidence as much as ever, or that he will be frequently consulted by him, as may be gathered from the fact that His Majesty is only to return to-night to his country seat, about ten miles from Pesth, and that Count Andrassy is invited to go there to-morrow.

Baron Haymerle would not, I believe, allow himself to be put under the tutelage of Count Andrassy, if the latter were disposed to assume it, which he probably is not, but the opinions of his predecessor will certainly not be without weight with him, and will tend to render him less than ever disposed for energetic measures.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 540.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received October 26.)

(No. 678. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, October 22, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 656, I have the honour to inclose the copy of a confidential letter from Baron Haymerle in answer to mine forwarding him the copy of Colonel Wilson's Report upon the state of Mussulman and Greek populations of the district of Bourgas.

The Imperial Government, while proposing to institute more minute examination of the facts reported by Colonel Wilson, at once declared their readiness to make new and energetic representations on the subject to the Governor-General of East Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 540.

Baron Haymerle to Sir H. Elliot.

(Confidentielle.)
M. l'Ambassadeur, *Budapest, le 20 Octobre, 1880.*

PAR la lettre que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 11 courant, elle a bien voulu m'envoyer copie d'un Rapport du Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson sur la triste situation des minorités Musulmanes et Grecques de la population du district de Bourgas dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Votre Excellence m'a informé en temps qu'en la chargeant de la dite communication, son Excellence Lord Granville l'avait invitée de demander si le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal était disposé à réclamer, conjointement avec le Gouvernement Anglais ou séparément, contre les abus exposés dans le Rapport de Mr. Wilson. En vous priant, M. l'Ambassadeur, de faire parvenir à Lord Granville mes remercîments pour la communication en question, je n'ai pas besoin de rappeler ici la vive sollicitude que le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal a toujours montrée pour le sort des minorités en Bulgarie et dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Maintes fois déjà nous avons fait entendre notre voix tant à Sophia qu'à Philippopoli pour y recommander l'examen et le redressement des griefs que les habitants Musulmans Grecs des dites contrées portaient à notre connaissance par des nombreuses pétitions.

Par les rapports de nos Consuls qui confirment en substance les observations de Mr. Wilson, nous sommes informés des malheurs et des persécutions qu'une partie de la population a eu à subir dans plusieurs districts des Balkans, et tout en nous réservant une étude plus approfondie des faits signalés par le Colonel Wilson, nous pouvons dès à présent déclarer que nous sommes tout disposés à faire de notre côté de nouvelles et énergiques représentations au Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale dans le sens indiqué par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) HAYMERLE

No. 541.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 679.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, October* 22, 1880.

THE letter from Mezzovo, of which a translation is herewith inclosed, has been communicated to me by the Austro-Hungarian Government, and contains strategical and other information with respect to Epirus, which your Lordship will find of interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 541.

Extract of a Letter from Mezzovo, dated September 13, 1880.

(Translation.)

IF the idea of an intact preservation of Epirus for Albania forms the principal hope not only of the regular troops collected in this province, but also of all the Mussulman Albanians, and one that is most zealously fostered by them, it is certainly clear that the deep-rooted hatred of the population to any Greek dominion considerably hampers the action of the Porte in this district.

The Porte's authority can only be brought to bear, in so far as her intentions are completely in accord with the wishes of the principal clans, who are all violently opposed to any cession in Epirus, and should the Porte give way on this point, the League would then take the place of the troops.

The Central Committee of the League which sits alternately at Prisrend and at Ergeri (Argyrokastro) has informed the Vali that as a first recruiting one male adult from every six male Albanian Mussulmans (South Albania) has been called in and equipped, giving a total of 25,000 men, and that on the first alarming news 50,000 Arnauts from North Albania would come to their assistance.

Little would indeed be gained by the regular troops retiring from any ceded territory; the cession would only be nominal and its realization could only be effected by force.

According to the opinion of the Arnauts, who, since their success at Gusinjé and Plava have become bold and insolent, a similar plan of action would probably be attempted in Epirus.

The Turkish Government is evidently much mistrusted by them, since in her reply of the 20th July to the collective note of the Powers she only referred to the maintaining possession of Janina, Mezzovo, and Larissa, but was silent as regards Prevesa, Arta, &c., and thus proves the unceasing necessity of the immediate occupation of the frontier by the League, as the number of troops there is considered as insufficient.

The Vali arrived at the commencement of the month at Arta to discuss with Ibrahim Pasha further measures for a mutual occupation. They then agreed that 3,000 Arnauts

called in previously and five battalions from Arta should fight together, the former being entrusted with the defence of the important position of Petra as a proof of the confidence placed in them. From the remarks of the Vali, and from other indications, it is clearly seen how much he is under the influence of the League, and how anxiously he looks forward to the development of those events which would undoubtedly ensue should the Porte cease to regard the necessity of maintaining South Albania intact.

As the prevention of the partition of South Albania forms the chief aim of the League, it has, consequently, most important reasons for instituting defensive measures both at Prevesa and Arta, notwithstanding the majority of the population there are Greek colonists. These reasons are partly of a material but principally military character.

It is felt there that the Gulf of Arta lying between the northern marshes and the eastern range of the Pindus guards the south of Epirus, and that the entrance to this gulf can be prevented at Prevesa.

The only road that leads to Arta follows round by the gulf on the western slopes of the Pindus, and is easily defended by the new fortifications that have lately been thrown up at Anina.

In addition to the military reasons for the fortification of Prevesa must be added those of a material character.

The gulf is both large and deep, and greatly protected by the surrounding mountains, and free from shoals and other such obstacles to navigation; it answers the purpose as a seaport both for warlike as well as for commercial purposes, as perhaps no better in Europe. At present the said port is only used as a refuge by fishermen in stress of weather, who pay an annual rent of 12,000 Turkish liras to the Empire.

Prevesa is the seat of Government of the second district, whose population consists of 22,700 Christians, 11,000 Mussulmans, and 400 Jews. It is a coast town of 4,600 inhabitants, only 1,100 of whom are Mussulmans, whilst the remaining number, mostly old colonists, are Greeks.

On the seaside, in addition to the interior fortress, there are six isolated fortifications, constructed so as to protect the entrance into the gulf.

One sees that these defensive measures, carried on at a large expense and actively continued, in no way portend the voluntary abandonment of Prevesa, in a military sense the most important point in South Albania, and being like a wedge driven into the Greek territory, it must above all suffer on any cession of territory in Epirus. It seems far more as if Turkey, by her extensive measures of defence, strongly supported by the natural formation of the ground, wishes to erect a dam against the expanding desires of the neighbouring kingdom, a forcible removal of which would not prove an easy task for the latter.

If all this did not coincide with the actual condition of affairs, the late appointments of the most important functionaries in the districts would be difficult to comprehend, as being all persons whose disposition and nationality clearly show their intention to offer resistance.

In addition to Prevesa and Arta, there are in Epirus only two other points of importance in a military sense, viz., the mountain ridge near Karakal, and the country round Mezzovo.

The first-named is the highest point passed over by the road from Arta to Janina. It is defended by a fort built of bricks, and situated on the point where the rivers divide. This fort is named Pentepigadie; it has an extensive view, and completely commands, within cannon-shot, the main road on both sides. The fort is constructed in the form of a parallelogram, with projections like bastions; it has double stories for firing, and would require 150 men as garrison.

The roofing is no longer bomb-proof. The guns would have to be placed in action outside the fort, but up to the present nothing has been done for their protection. Eighty steps distant from the fort, on a projection of the northern slope, and perfectly protected against a direct attack from the south, are situated some large barracks, with accommodation for about 600 men, but at present they are nearly falling into decay and partly without roof.

These barracks contain a large depôt for ammunition and a hospital in close vicinity to the fort, and also a very abundant spring of water; but now there is only one company of infantry serving as garrison there.

The military importance for Turkey of the country round Mezzovo arises from the impossibility to pass the rocky and high mountains of the Pindus range and that of Gramos, which is connected with it on the northern side, and which divides South Albania partly from Thessaly on one side, and on the other from the north-east of Albania. The only possible communication by land between these territories leads across the ridge of the

Zygos Alps, which forms a connecting line with the above-mentioned mountain chains, and which inclose Mezzovo on the north and north-east sides.

The principal lines of communication with the three following places meet at Mezzovo, viz., (*a*) with Janina (South Albania); (*b*) with Larissa (Thessalia); (*c*) with Grevenna (North Albania); a fourth road branching off from Mezzovo; and merely a mountain-path leads over Kalarytas to Artathal, and deserves notice only so far as it crosses over the lowest ridge of the mountain.

Thus, should Mezzovo fall into the hands of the enemy, not only would the means of supply be cut off from between the three above-mentioned territories, which now between Thessaly and West Albania is especially important (as the principal portion of Albania is dependent on the products of the plains of Thessaly for support), but the Porte would also find herself compelled, so as to form a barrier against all further desires of the Greeks for further extension, to garrison strongly all those provinces whose principal lines of communication converge towards Mezzovo. How difficult even the only possible pass over the two above-mentioned mountain chains is, may be easily mentioned by the fact that the Zygos Pass is about 450 mètres high, over which the road to Grevenna leads, situated about 290 mètres higher, and only about 3 kilomètres distant from Mezzovo, if taken in a straight line. The rise from the Mezzovo Valley to the above place amounts to 390 mètres.

No. 542.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, October* 26.)

Constantinople, le 14 *Octobre*, 1880.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

POUR faire suite aux différentes communications de mon Département ayant trait aux vexations dont les Musulmans de la Bulgarie sont l'objet de la part des autorités locales, je crois devoir vous informer qu'un télégramme couvert de nombreuses signatures a été adressé de Samakow à Chakir Pacha, notre Ambassadeur à St. Pétersbourg, à l'effet de demander son intervention auprès du Gouvernement Russe en faveur des signataires emprisonnés par M. Caraveloff pour perception des impôts.

Chakir Pacha a transmis copie de cette pièce au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères Russe en faisant observer que les Chrétions aussi bien que les Musulmans commençaient à se plaindre des vexations de l'Administration Bulgare.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 543.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received October* 26.)

(Confidential.)

Admiralty, October 25, 1880.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, dated the 19th instant, forwarding one addressed to him by the Prince of Montenegro, in which His Highness states that he will not put any difficulties in the way of the peaceable cession of the district of Dulcigno by the Turks.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 543.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

"*Alexandra*," *Teodo Bay, October* 19, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, the copy of a letter I have received from the Prince of Montenegro, assuring me that he will not put any difficulties in the way of the peaceable cession of the district of Dulcigno by the Turks.

2. I have furnished my colleagues, the Commanders of the foreign squadrons, with a copy of His Highness' communication, and have acquainted them that, if a British officer is sent to the Montenegrin camp, it will be Captain Sale, R.E., Her Majesty's Commissioner for the demarcation of the frontier of Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. P. BEAUCHAMP SEYMOUR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 543.

The Prince of Montenegro to Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour.

Cettinjé, le $\frac{3}{15}$ *Octobre*, 1880.

Excellence,

JE m'empresse de vous remercier de votre communication du 14 courant. Vous pouvez être sûr, M. le Vice-Amiral, que j'éviterai avec soin toute complication lors de la remise du district de Dulcigno et du réglement des détails se rapportant à cette opération. Des instructions précises et sévères seront données en conséquence au Commandant de mes troupes. Néanmoins, pour éviter tout malentendu entre le Monténégro et les Grandes Puissances, j'aurais été très-heureux si les Cabinets consentaient à autoriser les Commandants des escadres unies d'envoyer au camp Monténégrin chacun un officier lors de l'exécution de la remise. Ces officiers se trouvaient là en simples témoins chargés seulement de constater les faits et la manière d'agir du Commandant Monténégrin. On éviterait ainsi les divergences dans les renseignements en cas de controverse où de toute autre complication imprévue.

J'adresse la même prière aux Représentants des autres Puissances.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) NICOLAS.

No. 544.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 26, 8 A.M.)

(No. 37.)

(Telegraphic.)

Bacsich, October 25, 1880, 6·45 P.M.

WITH reference to Mr. Green's telegram No. 141 to your Lordship, I propose to be present at Konia when Riza Pasha meets the Montenegrin Commander-in-chief there as desired by Prince Nikita; but I propose to await the [group wrong] Scutari before starting, as it seems to me improbable that Riza Pasha will go there.

Please address as before.

No. 545.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 26, 8 A.M.)

(No. 331.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, October 25, 1880, 10 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 714, I have consulted with several of my colleagues. As the main difficulty is created by Albanians north of Boyana, I think it preferable to press the Porte generally for fulfilment of its promises than to urge the special point of preventing other Albanians from crossing Boyana.

Foreign Minister has given the most positive assurances as [?] that everything was progressing favourably at Dulcigno, though confronted with the substance of Mr. Green and Sale's telegrams of the 23rd. The Bey was to have started to meeting place yesterday to sign the Convention.

No. 546.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 26, 8 A.M.)

(No. 332.)

(Telegraphic.)

Therapia, October 26, 1880, 12·30 A.M.

I JUST received Mr. Green's telegram relating to meeting on the 28th.

Foreign Minister stated positively to-day that Riza Pasha was ordered peremptorily to send the Bey to meet Montenegrin Delegate yesterday. It seems impossible to reconcile statement here with proceedings at Scutari at any stage.

No. 547.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 26, 8 A.M.)

(No. 334.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 25, 1880, 11·30 P.M.

VICE-CONSUL Malings telegraphs that local authorities have been ordered to embody immediately Redifs of that district.

A Government [? vessel] is loading torpedoes here destined for [? Chanak], and possibly in part for other places. I am taking measures to have ship watched as closely as is [? possible].

No. 548.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 188.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, October* 25, 1880.

THE Emperor to-day received the members of the Delegations, and the following is the substance of the portion of his speech dealing with foreign policy:—

"Since our last meeting, certain difficulties have arisen in the execution of the Treaty of Berlin which have claimed the earnest attention of the Powers. My Government has endeavoured, in concert with the other Powers, to overcome these difficulties, but friendly relations with all the European States, and the uninterrupted fostering of our political alliances, prove, notwithstanding the difficulties of the situation, that the influence of Austria has been employed in the interest of peace. My Government will continue to protect the Monarchy from all complications, and will aim at the maintenance of peace and of Treaty rights. They will, however, always consider it their first duty to guard the interests of Austria-Hungary."

No. 549.

Mr. Stephen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 92.)
(Telegraphic.) *Fitjhé, October* 25, 1880.

ASSEMBLY was opened to-day. The Governor-General's speech recommends careful study of the financial and economical condition of the province, for the improvement of which Bills are presented.

Referring to Kirdjali and Aïdos, his Excellency states that owing to prompt and energetic measures taken, order was soon restored and the guilty handed over to justice and punished. Peace and contentment reign throughout the country, and the return of labour and activity is a proof of the confidence of the different populations in the Government, and a guarantee for the future.

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 550.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 26.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October* 25, 1880.

NEW Ministry under leadership of M. Coumoundouros was sworn in to-day. He takes portfolio of Foreign Affairs.

No. 551.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, October* 25, 1880.

THE Ottoman guard-ship "Edirneh" left Salonica this morning for Volo with battalion of infantry aboard 600 strong.

This afternoon Field-Marshal Hassan Tahsin Pasha arrives here from Constantinople aboard Ottoman despatch-boat "Stambul." He is appointed Governor-General of Salonica, in the room of Dervish Pasha, who goes as Special Commissioner to Scutari.

Dervish Pasha will leave this to-morrow afternoon aboard the "Stambul" for Antivari, whence he will proceed to Scutari. This Pasha has seen much service, both in

a civil and military capacity, and is said to have much influence with the Mahommedan population; but he is a cunning, false, and cruel old man.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 552.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1880, 7·45 P.M.

MR. GREEN'S telegram No. 141.

You are authorized to be present at meeting of Ottoman and Montenegrin Commanders-in-chief should Prince Nicholas wish it.

No. 553.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 125.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1880, 7·55 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 141.

Captain Sale will be authorized to be present at meeting of Ottoman and Montenegrin Commanders-in-chief if Prince Nicholas should wish it.

No. 553A.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 133. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1880.

THERE will be no objection to authorizing Captain Sale to be present at the meeting of the Montenegrin and Turkish Commanders-in-chief if, as stated in your telegram No. 141 of yesterday, the Prince is anxious that he should attend, and I have accordingly telegraphed to you to this effect.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 553B.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 34. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 26, 1880.

THE Prince of Montenegro having expressed to Mr. Green his desire that you should be present at the meeting of the Turkish and Montenegrin Commanders-in-chief on the 28th instant, I have authorized you by telegraph to-day to comply with His Highness' request.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 554.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 27.)

(No. 330. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, October* 17, 1880.

IMMEDIATELY on the receipt of Mr. Goschen's telegram of yesterday I called on Prince Nicholas, and made known to His Highness the complaints of the Porte concerning the treatment of the Mussulmans of Podgoritza and Spuz.

I was not surprised at the irritation shown by the Prince at hearing of the manner in which his conduct has been misrepresented, as he has endeavoured, in compliance with repeated assurances he has given to me, to treat the inhabitants of the newly-annexed districts with the greatest kindness, and with the utmost leniency when they have forgotten their obligations of allegiance towards him.

His Highness declined at first to follow the course suggested to him by me, that he should promise to pardon all the persons compromised as soon as the town and district of

Dulcigno had been peaceably surrendered to him. He said he was not going to allow the slightest doubt to remain on the public mind as to the uprightness of the proceedings of his Judicial Administration. He would demand of the Powers who had listened to the complaints of the Porte that they should appoint a Mixed Commission to try afresh the persons who had been found guilty, but he would at the same time stipulate that the sentences of the Commission should be immediately put into effect.

I will not trouble your Lordship with a recital of the very serious language I had to use to the Prince to induce him to alter his decision, but will merely explain that His Highness consented to follow the course I recommended provided I would write to him a private note which should contain the expression of my conviction that the condemned men had been treated with justice, and which I felt perfectly authorized to do, as Riza Pasha had himself admitted their guilt to me, and as, besides, the letters seized by the Montenegrin authorities were alone sufficient to condemn their writers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 555.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 331. Political.)

Cettinjé, October 18, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, two copies of a note received by me this day from Voïvoda Radonich, and placing before me, with a request that I should communicate them to Her Majesty's Government, all the written proceedings which passed on the 16th and 17th at Ricka, between the Turkish and Montenegrin Delegates, with regard to the conclusion of the Dulcigno Convention.

I have also the honour to inclose herewith a copy of Riza Pasha's note to Mr. Bozo Petrovich, announcing to him his readiness to enter into negotiations for the cession and evacuation of the town and district of Dulcigno, and stating that the terms of the Convention on this subject have been communicated by the Porte, not only to him, but also to the Powers.

I have not much doubt that an agreement may be come to on most of the proposals of the Turkish Delegate, but I believe the only and real obstacle to a settlement will prove the question of the Porte being prepared or not to accept its obligations as an independent Government, and hold itself bound by international practices to prevent bands from passing from its territory into that of Montenegro.

This policy of alleged administrative impotency deprived the Sultan of all jurisdiction in the Herzegovina and Bosnia, and ought to warn the Porte against repeating it in Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 555.

Draft Convention proposed by Bedri Bey.

ARTICLE I.

D'ADMETTRE comme ligne-frontière le *statu quo* proposé par la Sublime Porte au nord du Lac de Scutari.

ARTICLE II.

A respecter les droits, la vie, et l'honneur, des habitants qui ne voudraient pas sortir avec les troupes Impériales Ottomanes des localités cédées au Monténégro, de même qu'à respecter les propriétés des habitants qui resteraient ou qui ne resteraient pas, se conformant à ce propos à ce qui a été établi par le Traité de Berlin.

ARTICLE III.

Que la question de l'évaluation des prix des terres, établissements appartenant au Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, et le mode d'administration des bien de l'État ou fondations pieuses (vacoufs), aussi bien que la quote-part de la dette publique de l'Empire que le Monténégro doit supporter, conformément au Traité de Berlin.

Ce dernier paragraphe devant faire l'objet d'une entente ultérieure entre la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement Monténégrin.

ARTICLE IV.

Le Gouvernement Monténégrin reconnaît valable tous les Actes émanés des Tribunaux et autorités Ottomanes dans les localités cédées.

ARTICLE V.

Les bâtiments marchands appartenant aux habitants de Dulcigno qui ne changeraient pas leur résidence hors de la Principauté auront le droit d'arborer le pavillon Ottoman pendant le délai de trois ans à partir de la date de l'échange de la Convention. Lorsque, pendant ces trois ans, le propriétaire d'un navire Dulcignote vendrait son navire à un sujet Ottoman ou bien vendrait ce dernier son copropriétaire, en ce cas les navires appartenant à cette catégorie porteront de tout temps le pavillon Ottoman.

ARTICLE VI.

Le Gouvernement Monténégrin facilitera le transport des habitants qui voudraient émigrer hors de la Principauté.

ARTICLE VII.

Dans le cas où des armes et des munitions se trouvant en dépôt dans le district de Dulcigno, et ceux restés entre les mains de la population, et qui ne pourraient pas être transportées jusqu'au jour de l'évacuation, le Gouvernement Monténégrin s'engage de la surveillance de tout ce matériel et il en fera la remise aux autorités Ottomanes à leur réclamation.

Le Commissaire Ottoman demande qu'outre la Convention réglant les détails de la cession du district de Dulcigno le Délégué Monténégrin lui donne une déclaration spécifiant la prise de possession du district en question, déclaration qui serait annexée à la Convention, et signée, en même temps. Cette déclaration serait conçue dans les termes suivants:—

"Le Soussigné, Délégué Ottoman, déclare avoir cédé au Gouvernement Monténégrin le district de Dulcigno, conformément à la ligne-frontière de la proposition Anglaise; que la cession aura lieu dans trois jours à partir de la date de la signature de notre Convention, et que les autorités civiles et militaires Impériales Ottomanes se seront retirées. En foi de quoi la présente Déclaration a été signée et remise à M. le Délégué du Gouvernement Monténégrin."

Le Délégué Monténégrin remettrait au Délégué Ottoman une pièce ainsi conçue:—

"Le Soussigné, Délégué du Gouvernement Monténégrin, déclare avoir pris le district de Dulcigno conformément à la ligne-frontière proposée par les Hautes Puissances, acceptée par la Sublime Porte. En foi de quoi la présente Déclaration a été signée et remise à M. le Délégué Ottoman."

Inclosure 2 in No. 555.

M. Radonich to Mr. Kirby Green.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

Cettinjé, ce $\frac{9}{15}$ *Octobre*, 1880.

A LA suite de l'accord intervenu entre les Grandes Puissances et la Sublime Porte, les Délégués des Commandants-en-chef Ottomans et Monténégrins chargés de conclure une Convention ayant trait à la remise du district et de la ville de Dulcigno, se sont réunis le $\frac{15}{27}$ de ce mois à Ricka. Je m'empresse de vous communiquer, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, les quatre pièces qui ont été échangées entre eux, nommément:—

1. Le Projet de Convention proposé par le Délégué Ottoman.
2. La lettre adressée par notre Délégué au Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey, accompagnant,
3. Notre contre-projet; et, enfin,
4. La réponse du Délégué Ottoman à ce contre-projet.

Comme vous voudrez bien le remarquer, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, notre contre-projet n'est qu'une périphrase du projet Ottoman, dont toutefois nous avons cru devoir exclure l'Article I^er^, comme étant en dehors de l'entente à intervenir ne devant porter que sur la remise de la ville et du district de Dulcigno. La proposition contenue dans cet Article a du reste déjà été rejetée par les Ambassadeurs des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople.

L'Article V a dû être également éliminé, comme étan tincompatible avec l'esprit et le sens du Traité de Berlin.

Quant aux deux Déclarations devant être échangées entre les deux Délégués sur la remise et la prise de possession de Dulcigno, notre Contre-Projet les accepte, mais en son temps et lieu.

En agissant ainsi le Gouvernement Princier espérait pouvoir répondre aux désirs exprimés par les Grandes Puissances qui avaient bien voulu lui conseiller la modération et la conciliation dans cette affaire, et se croyait en droit de compter sur l'issue satisfaisante des pourparlers engagés à Ricka. Aussi avions-nous donné à notre Délégué l'ordre d'entamer immédiatement avec son collègue Ottoman des pourparlers sur les détails techniques de la remise.

Notre Délégué nous fait savoir qu'en réponse à cette partie de notre Contre-Projet, le Colonel Bedri Bey lui a remis la pièce No. 4 ci-annexée.

La réponse du Délégué Ottoman a tout lieu de nous surprendre. Il ne s'agirait plus en effet de la remise régulière de la ville et du district de Dulcigno par les troupes Ottomanes aux troupes Monténégrines, mais de l'évacuation pure et simple par les troupes Ottomanes du district que nos troupes ne devraient occuper que trois heures après que cette évacuation aurait eu lieu. Bedri Bey ajoute, en outre, que le Gouvernement Ottoman décline dès à présent toute responsabilité des faits qui pourraient se passer dans le district de Dulcigno après son évacuation par l'armée Turque.

Nous ne saurions accepter cette manière de procéder sans nous heurter à des difficultés pareilles à celles que nous avons rencontrées ce printemps dernier à Touzi, et sans nous exposer à une lutte dont les conséquences et les proportions ne sauraient être prévues. Nous sommes en effet plus que certains qu'en adoptant la proposition du Délégué Ottoman, nos troupes qui iraient occuper le district de Dulcigno seraient reçues, comme à Touzi, à coups de fusil, et, vu la configuration du terrain et la disposition morale de nos troupes déjà par trop surexcitées par cet état de choses, nous ne serions plus à même de prévenir à temps l'effusion de sans que l'Europe a tellement à cœur d'éviter.

Les considérations qui précèdent imposent par conséquent au Gouvernement Princier la nécessité d'insister sur la remise régulière et pacifique de la ville et du district de Dulcigno.

En vous priant, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, de vouloir bien porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Gouvernement, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) V. S. RADONICH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 555.

M. Matanovich to Bedri Bey.

Ricka, le 17 Octobre, 1880.

J'E me suis empressé de communiquer à mon Gouvernement le Projet de Convention dont vous m'avez entretenu ce matin. En réponse à cette communication, le Gouvernement Princier me charge de vous transmettre le Contre-Projet ci-inclus, qui j'espère répondra d'une manière satisfaisante au but que nous nous proposons d'atteindre.

Quant à ce qui concerne l'Article I du Projet que vous avez eu la bonté de me communiquer, le Gouvernement Monténégrin étant informé par les Puissances qui ont traité et réglé la question entière des frontières Turco-Monténégrines que la Convention que nous sommes chargés de conclure ne doit se référer qu'au modalités de la remise de la ville et du district de Dulcigno, il lui serait impossible quant à present de prendre des engagementss ayant trait à la frontière à l'est du Lac de Scutari.

Les questions formant l'objet des Articles II et III de votre Projet sont du reste résolues par le Traité de Berlin, dont le Gouvernement Princier n'a jamais songé à s'écarter.

Vous remarquerez en outre, M. le Colonel, que l'Article V de votre Projet n'a pas trouvé place dans le Contre-Projet que j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, et cela parce que le Monténégro étant lié par les obligations de l'Article XXIX du Traité de Berlin, qui doit avoir même force et valeur pour le littoral de Dulcigno, n'aurait pu, sans enfreindre les dispositions de cet Article, s'engager à en accepter des modifications quelconques.

Veuillez, &c.

Inclosure 4 in No. 555.

Counter-Project proposed by M. Matanovich.

ARTICLE I.

LE Gouvernement Monténégrin s'engage de respecter les droits, la vie, et l'honneur des habitants qui ne voudraient pas sortir avec les troupes Impériales Ottomanes des localités cédées au Monténégro, de même qu'à respecter les propriétés des habitants qui resteraient ou qui ne resteraient pas, se conformant à ce propos à ce qui a été établi par le Traité de Berlin.

ARTICLE II.

Une Convention Spéciale Turco-Monténégrine réglera la question de l'évacuation, des prix des terres, établissements appartenant au Gouvernement Imperial Ottoman, et le mode d'administration des biens de l'État ou fondations pieuses ("vacoufs"), aussi bien que la quote-part de la dette de l'Empire que le Monténégro doit supporter, conformément au Traité de Berlin.

ARTICLE III.

Le Gouvernement Monténégrin reconnait valables tous les actes émanés des Tribunaux et des autorités Ottomanes dans les localités cédées.

ARTICLE IV.

Le Gouvernement Monténégrin facilitera le transfert des habitants qui voudraient émigrer en dehors de la principauté.

ARTICLE V.

Les armes et les munitions se trouvant dans le district de Dulcigno et celles restées entre les mains de la population appartenant au Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, qui ne pourraient pas être transportées jusqu'au jour de la remise, seront mises en dépôt et confiées à la garde d'un officier Ottoman avec une escouade de soldats suffisante pour garder ce matériel.

ARTICLE VI.

La remise régulière de la ville et du district de Dulcigno doit avoir lieu trois fois vingt-quatre heures après la signature de la présente Convention, et s'effectuera de la manière suivante (suivent les détails techniques de la remise).

ARTICLE VII.

La remise régulière de la ville et du district de Dulcigno accomplie, une déclaration de prise de possession sera délivrée par le Commandant-en-chef de la division de Scutari-d'Albanie.

Inclosure 5 in No. 555.

Answer of Bedri Bey to the Counter-Proposition about the Technical Details of the Surrender of Dulcigno.

LE district de Dulcigno sera évacué par les troupes et autorités Ottomanes trois jours après la signature des Délégués réunis à Ricka.

2. Le Commandant Monténégrin chargé de la prise de possession sera informé un jour avant de l'heure où les troupes Ottomanes devraient se retirer.

3. Les troupes Impériales Ottomanes se trouvant à Dulcigno se retireront vers St. Nicolo dès qu'elles auront reçu l'ordre de l'évacuation dans le terme de trois jours Les troupes Monténégrines entreront dans le dit district trois heures après que les troupes se seraient retirées.

4. Les troupes Monténégrines chargées de l'occupation du district de Dulcigno y entreront à l'heure précédemment fixée par un ou plusieurs points qu'elles choisiront, sans toutefois franchir la nouvelle frontière du côté de Scutari.

5. Le Gouvernement Imperial Ottoman ne sera point responsable de ce qui pourrait arriver après l'heure de la retraite de ses troupes.

Inclosure 6 in No. 555.

Riza Pasha to M. Petrovich.

Le 15 Octobre, 1880.

LE Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman voulant donner une nouvelle preuve de son bon vouloir, cède Dulcigno au Gouvernement Monténégrin, et vient de me donner les ordres catégoriques relativement à la cession à laquelle doit intervenir une Convention dont on a fait part aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, aussi bien qu'à moi.

Conformément donc aux instructions que j'ai reçues, je cèderai et évacuerai la dite ville. Je prie, par conséquent, votre Excellence de vouloir bien se rendre à Rieka personnellement, ou bien d'envoyer un Délégué le 17 de ce mois, dans l'après-midi, pour y entamer avec le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey, Délégué Impérial Ottoman, les pourparlers, et dresser la Convention y relative.

Veuillez, &c.

No. 556.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 332. Political.)

Cettinje, October 20, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 330 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that, last night, after dinner at the Palace, the Prince took me aside and said that he wished to ask a personal favour. He hoped I would never hesitate, for one single moment, whenever I saw his Government doing something which I thought was not conducive to the benefit of the country, or which was contrary to the letter or spirit of the Treaty of Berlin, to at once bring it to His Highness' notice, as he admitted the insufficiency and ignorance of his officers and people, and ardently desired to prove his gratitude to Europe, and especially to England, by showing that the Montenegrins and their Ruler are always prepared to be guided by the superior knowledge and experience of their benefactors.

I replied to Prince Nicholas that I looked upon his communication as a gracious approval of the course I had hitherto freely observed in immediately appealing to his generous feelings and sense of justice to remedy the occasional errors or misinterpretation of his authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 557.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 333. Political.)

Cettinjé, October 21, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegrams of the 18th and 19th instant I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, an extract from a Report received by me from M. Francesco Summa, concerning the action of the Turkish authorities of Scutari with regard to the expected surrender of the town and district of Dulcigno.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 557.

M. Summa to Mr. Kirby Green.

Scutari, le 16 Octobre, 1880.

(Extrait.)

VOUS n'ignorez certainement pas que Riza Pacha a été nommé Général de Division, et Hodo Bey, le Commandant des Albanais à Touzi, Général de Brigade et Aide-de-camp du Sultan. Cette dernière nomination a causé une mauvaise impression

parmi les Musulmans de Scutari, car on est certain que maintenant Hodo Pacha fera son possible pour aider le Gouvernement Impérial contre la Ligue.

Cependant Riza Pacha, jusqu'à présent, ne fait rien pour effectuer la cession de Dulcigno au Monténégro, et je ne crois pas que cette cession aura lieu aussi vite qu'on le pense, puisque comme le Comité de la Ligue continue chaque jour à envoyer des renforts à Dulcigno sans rencontrer aucune opposition de la part des autorités militaires Turques, lesquelles, au contraire, gardent une attitude passive vis-à-vis les procédés du Comité d'action, qui persiste à vouloir s'opposer par les armes à la cession de Dulcigno, et j'ai cru de mon devoir de vous en informer, par mon télégramme chiffré, que je vous adresse aujourd'hui, voie d'Antivari.

Je dois aussi vous communiquer que Riza Pacha a déclaré qu'il aurait [?] dans un bref délai, le district de Dulcigno au Monténégro, et qu'à cet effet il envoyait à Cettinjé Bedri Bey et M. Bonatti. En outre, il a dit qu'il avait décidé d'envoyer deux bataillons de Nizams à Touzi. Je ne puis pas comprendre pour quel motif il envoie des militaires à Touzi, avant que l'affaire de Dulcigno soit finie, et cette décision fait soupçonner aux Chrétiens et aux montagnards quelque nouvelle intrigue des Turcs contre Tousi, étant donné que les autorités Turques ne font jusqu'aujourd'hui aucune démarche qui laisse croire à une cession immédiate de Dulcigno.

No. 558.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 334. Political.)

Cettinjé, October 21, 1880.

My Lord,

FROM a source which I consider well-informed, but not generally disposed to judge favourably the conduct of the Turkish authorities, I learn that at Scutari the failure to follow up the summons delivered through Captain Lord Walter Kerr by active measures has caused Riza Pasha and the other Turkish functionaries to set aside all attempts to disguise the good understanding existing between them and the Albanian Committee, and that the impression produced by the inaction of the European Powers has, in Middle Albania, not been favourable for the latter. It appears, however, that Colonel Mustafa Bey, a native of Janina and formerly an Aide-de-camp of Sultan Abdul Aziz, who was intrusted with a mission to raise up the fanatical and patriotic feelings of the inhabitants of Tirana, Elbassan, Kavaja, Pekini, Durazzo, &c., and induce their populations to join in an attack against Montenegro, has not been very successful, and that he returned last week to give a report in this sense to Riza Pasha. He has now again left for the same localities, with probably increased powers and means of moving the people.

Similar proceedings on the part of the Turkish authorities have been going on in Dibra, where Representatives from the Vilayet of Kossovo and other parts of Old Servia were summoned to take part in the deliberations for action against either Montenegro or Greece.

The recent rewards and honours bestowed on Hodo Bey, the Chief of the Scutari Police, who had taken command of the North Albanians at Tousi, it is also believed, are calculated to strengthen the Albanians in their determination to resist all cessions to Montenegro.

It is true I had pointed out Hodo Bey, in my reports to your Lordship, as an instrument whereby the Porte could, if loyally disposed, more easily induce the hostile Albanians to submit to the transfer of Dulcigno; but the way in which the value attached by me to Hodo Bey has been admitted by the Porte has altogether reversed my intentions. There would have been no objection to naming him Major-General of an army to which he never regularly belonged, or appointing him Aide-de-camp to the Sultan, or anything else, in fact, if it was intended by these means to secure an end which was otherwise difficult of attainment; but these rewards have now been bestowed for Hodo Bey's successful opposition to the Count Corti Convention (a solemn engagement between the Porte and the Powers), or, as Riza Pasha expressed it, by his speech when a public military reception was accorded the other day to Hodo Bey, on his return from Tousi, "for the great services rendered to his country and fidelity to the Padishah."

It is, therefore, not surprising that when the Porte promises the employment of persuasion for inducing the North Albanians to accept its decisions, that those who witness the proceedings of its authorities at Scutari should consider that that

persuasion is only likely to resolve itself into the same extraordinary conduct as has approved the resistance of Hodo Bey to the April Convention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 559.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 112. Political.)
Salonica, October 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, the following papers relative to the outrage perpetrated on a young Jewess of Drama, and which I reported in my despatch No. 109 of the 11th instant :—

No. 1.—Memorial of the Jewish Community of Drama to the Pasha of Salonica.

No. 2.—Letter of Pasha of Salonica to this Consulate-General.

No. 3.—Telegram of the "Procureur-Général" of Drama to the "Procureur-Général" of Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 559.

Memorial addressed by the Jewish Community of Drama to Dervish Pasha, Governor-General of Salonica.

(Translation.)

LES Soussignés ont l'honneur de solliciter la protection de votre Excellence contre les vexations dont ils sont continuellement les victimes.

La dernière de ces vexations est le rapt commis dans la personne de la demoiselle Solica, dont le frère Isacutcho a déjà par télégraphe soumis le cas à la justice de votre Excellence.

Le fait s'est passé comme suit :—

Le nommé Sami Effendi, Directeur de l'Administration des Dîmes, a, la nuit de Mércredi dernier, $\frac{18}{30}$ Septembre, fait, à l'aide d'une ruse, descendre à la porte de la maison la susdite Solica, qui reste chez son oncle, Jossua Benveniste, Sarraf.

A peine la jeune fille eut-elle ouverte la porte, que le susdit Sami Effendi, aidé de son domestique, le nommé Dimitri, s'empara par la force et par la violence de la demoiselle, la fit conduire chez lui et commis sur elle le crime odieux de viol par la force.

La famille de la demoiselle s'adressa à la justice, qui pourtant n'a pas encore fait subir le moindre interrogatoire au prévenu ; au contraire, c'est la demoiselle qui a été soumise à un interrogatoire continuel.

Avant-hier la jeune fille, dans le cours d'un second interrogatoire, n'ayant pu résister à la pression, tomba évanouie.

Son beau-frère, Bohoratchi, témoin oculaire du fait, s'étant permis de faire remarquer que c'était violer la loi que de soumettre la jeune fille à une telle pression, accompagnant d'ailleurs ses observations d'un appel aux prescriptions de la loi et de l'équité, a été pour ce fait mis aux arrêts vingt-quatre heures. Le prévenu Sami Effendi de sa part continue à jouir de toute sa liberté, donnant des fêtes chaque soir chez lui et assaisonnant ses amusements avec injures contre tous les Israélites.

Permettez-nous, Excellence, d'ajouter que ceci vient après un autre méfait commis dans la place publique par Ahmed, repris de justice, sur un de nos coreligionnaires, le nommé Vidal, marchand en manufactures. Ce pauvre homme a été battu et mortellement blessé sans raison, et il a été prouvé à l'évidence que le susdit Ahmed a été l'agresseur et l'auteur des blessures.

Pourtant nous ne savons par quelles raisons les rigueurs de la loi ne l'atteignent pas de continuer à jouir de toute sa liberté.

Nous ne pouvons plus résister à des semblables négations et tyrannies qui se succèdent et se ressemblent. Nous en prévoyons aussi une recrudescence si la loi n'est pas appliquée contre le susdit fonctionnaire Sami Effendi et le susdit Ahmet Effendi.

Nous venons donc solliciter et implorer le justice de votre Excellence, et nous demandons que les susdits prévenus ne soient mis au-dessus de la loi.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Drama, le $\frac{25 \text{ Septembre}}{6 \text{ Octobre}}$, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 559.

Dervish Pasha to Consul-General Blunt.

(Traduction.)
Salonique, le 16 *Octobre*, 1880.

JE vous transmets ci-joint copie de la dépêche-réponse, par télégraphe, du substitut du Procureur-Général de Drama au substitut du Procureur-Général de Salonique, relativement aux faits que vous m'avez signalés être commis par le Directeur des Dîmes de Drama sur une jeune fille Israélite.

Des instructions nécessaires ont été données pour que l'on donne le plus tôt possible une solution à cette affaire.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) DERVISH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 559.

The Procureur-General of Drama to the Procureur of Salonica.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.)
Drama, le $\frac{24 \text{ Septembre}}{6 \text{ Octobre}}$, 1880.

AFFAIRE de l'Israélite Vidal :

Lorsqu'après l'interrogation de l'agresseur et l'instruction de l'affaire on allait procéder aux débats contradictoires, le susdit Vidal étant à l'occasion des fêtes religieuses parti pour Serres, l'agresseur a été relâché sous caution et on attend le retour du demandeur pour déterminer la gravité des blessures et procéder aux débats contradictoires.

Quant à l'accusation du viol portée par une renommée de Serres contre le Directeur des Dîmes, l'instruction en a été commencée aussitôt la plainte déposée, c'est-à-dire le $\frac{5}{17}$ Septembre. Les interrogatoires de la fille du susdit Directeur, et de ceux qui sont entrés armés dans la maison de ce dernier, se poursuivent tous les jours avec vigueur, et il est naturel que vous serez informé du résultat.

No. 560.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 113. Political.)
Salonica, October 17, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my previous despatches relative to the proceedings of the Albanian League in Macedonia, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have been told by the Greek Metropolitan that an order has been sent by the Porte to the provincial authorities directing them not to recognize the League, and above all, not to allow its agents to levy contributions on the Christian community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 561.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received October 27.)

(No. 114. Political. Confidential.)
Salonica, October 19, 1880.

My Lord,

NEWS has reached here from North Albania that the Albanian League is about to hold another meeting in Dibra in connection with the Greco-Turkish frontier

question; and I have been told by a person who is generally well informed, that my Italian colleague, M. Lambertenghi, has dispatched his first cavass, a Ghega Albanian and native of Dibra, to attend the meeting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 562.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received October 27.*)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Admiralty, October 26, 1880.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, dated the 23rd instant, reporting the state of affairs in Montenegro and North Albania, in continuation of his Report of the 11th instant, which was sent to you on the 18th.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 562.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *"Alexandra," in Teodo Bay, October 22, 1880.*

IN continuation of my Report dated the 11th instant, I have the honour to acquaint you, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that no real change has taken place in the state of affairs existing between Turkey and Montenegro since that date, although meetings have been held at Rjeka, in Montenegro, by two officers deputed respectively by the Prince of Montenegro and by Riza Pasha, Imperial Commissioners at Scutari, for the purpose of settling the preliminaries of the cession of Dulcigno.

2. There can be but little doubt that the Ottoman Government is by no means in earnest in this matter. On the first occasion of their meeting, Colonel Bedri Bey, the representative of Riza Pasha, brought forward proposals, three of which, as detailed below, were clearly inadmissable. The first was that the *status quo* north of the lake should be acknowledged by Montenegro as the frontier-line. The fifth was that vessels belonging to inhabitants of Dulcigno should in certain cases have the right of flying the Ottoman flag, a condition which would clash with Article XXXIX of the Treaty of Berlin; and lastly, the Turkish Delegate demanded that the Montenegrins should give a sort of acknowledgment or receipt for the district of Dulcigno three days before they actually got it. Bedri Bey also refused to entertain the idea of any formal *remise* of the territory in question. He at once stated that the Ottoman authorities would simply withdraw their civil and military Representatives in a certain manner, and would refuse the responsability for subsequent events. This recalls the preliminaries of the Touzi affair of April last, when, owing to the Turks failing to give twenty-four hours' notice, according to agreement, of their being about to evacuate the positions held by them, the Albanians occupied them when the Turks retired, and the Montenegrins, finding they would be resisted, did not attempt to advance.

3. It may be well, however, that I should recapitulate the dates of the principal events which have taken place subsequent to Thursday, the 7th October, on which day I had the honour to receive their Lordships' telegram* informing me of the decision of Her Majesty's Government to occupy Smyrna.

(*a.*) This became known to the Porte on Saturday, the 9th October, having been telegraphed from Cettinjé by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires there either late on the 7th or early on the 8th, and its immediate result was,

(*b.*) That on the same evening, that of the 9th, Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople was officially informed of the readiness of the Porte to cede Dulcigno immediately and amicably.

* A telegram from Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

4. Matters remained in abeyance until the night of the 14th-15th, when the Prince of Montenegro received a telegram from Riza Pasha saying that, in consequence of orders received from the Porte, Colonel Bedri Bey would be sent to Cettinjé in a few days to enter into negotiations prior to the cession of Dulcigno. On the 17th an announcement was made to the Prince that Bedri Bey had arrived at Rjeka on the previous evening, and that he would remain there for twenty-four hours to receive the Montenegrin Delegate.

Although the notice was of the shortest, the meeting took place on the 17th, and on M. Matanovich, who had been sent from the Prince, intimating that it would be impossible to consent to the proposals above mentioned, Colonel Bedri Bey stated that he must return to Scutari for fresh instructions, and, having done so, he now (21st) telegraphs to the Montenegrin authorities that telegraphic communication between Scutari and Constantinople is interrupted (this is a very old trick of the Turk), and requests that his Montenegrin colleague may meet him at Vir Bazaar, a village on the border of the lake, about two-thirds of the distance from Scutari to Rjeka, whither, I presume, M. Matanovich will proceed to-day.

5. Their Lordships will thus perceive that nothing whatever has resulted from the Porte having undertaken on the 9th instant, thirteen days ago, to deliver up Dulcigno, immediately and amicably, and, if I may be allowed to form an opinion by the past, I think it quite possible that this state of affairs may last for a considerable time; it is in consequence thereof that I do not request Captain Sale, R.N., Her Majesty's Commissioner to Montenegro, who is now on board the "Alexandra," to take any part in the so-called preliminary consultations between Colonel Bedri Bey and M. Matanovich, but in order that Her Majesty's Government may be kept acquainted with the nature of them, Lieutenant Vincent Caillard, R.E., Her Majesty's Assistant Commissioner to Montenegro, was dispatched to Rjeka on the 18th instant, for the purpose of obtaining the earliest information on the spot, and forwarding it to me through Captain Sale.

6. The Prince of Montenegro and my colleagues are aware that it is not my intention to send a naval officer to be present during the negotiations for the ultimate cession of Dulcigno, unless their Lordships should order me to do so. I consider that Captain Sale is the most fit person to be employed on such a duty, alike from his knowledge of the country, and from his official position in it. I have reason to believe that the naval Representatives of the Powers here present, entertain a similar opinion, and that they will act accordingly with respect to the choice of their Delegates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. P. BEAUCHAMP SEYMOUR.

No. 563.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 27, 8 A.M.*)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October 26, 1880, 5·30 P.M.*

TO-DAY M. Coumoundouros made a statement to the Chamber to this effect:—

His policy was known; they had a decision of Europe which they meant to carry out, and this they owed to their respect for Europe. They must prepare, and continue to prepare, to overcome the obstacles which necessity may oblige Greece to meet. This policy is approved by the nation which hastened to [group wrong; ? arms] as soon as it was called upon.

The late Government had collected an army of 42,700. Sufficient officers to train it are wanting. Clothing, provisions, and necessaries were not yet provided. He asked for a delay of five days to examine situation.

M. Tricoupi opposed this, and insisted that M. Coumoundouros should explain clearly at once the policy he intended to follow, and after he had done so the Chamber would be in a position to decide as to delay demanded by Prime Minister.

M. Coumoundouros answered that it was the intention of the Government to keep up the army at its full force until Award of Europe had been carried out.

Eventually Government had a majority of [two groups wrong] votes in favour of adjournment of Chamber till Monday.

No. 564.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 27, 10 A.M.)

(No. 148.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October* 27, 1880, 7 A.M.

IN consequence of report received from Marquis of Menabrea of a conversation with your Lordship, instructions have been sent to Italian Ambassador at Constantinople to support Mr. Goschen's representations as to observance of the 18th Protocol of the Berlin Congress for the settlement of Turkish finances, instead of treating directly with the holders of Turkish bonds.

No. 565.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 27, 2 P.M.)

(No. 149.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, October* 27, 1880, 1 P.M.

SIMILAR information to that reported in Mr. Green's telegrams Nos. 140 and 141 has been received from Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé.

Instructions have consequently been sent to Italian Ambassador at Constantinople to urge Riza Pasha being ordered to attend personally at Konia on the 28th instant, and the Italian Government having just now no Commissioner in Montenegro, has directed the Admiral to send a naval officer to be present at the meeting between the Ottoman and Montenegrin Commissioners.

No. 566.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 27, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 143.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October* 26, 1880, 5·50 P.M.

RIZA PASHA has not yet replied whether or no he will be at Konia to-morrow, but the Prince has directed his functionaries to go there in case a Turkish Delegate should be sent. The Montenegrin Commander-in-chief remains here.

(Sent to Ambassador and Admiral.)

No. 567.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 312. Extender.)
Athens, October 9, 1880.

My Lord,

M. TRICOUPI tells me that he is most anxious to be informed immediately it is decided to carry out the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin by the adoption of active measures; as, if the Powers were to determine on such a line of action, the Government here would immediately call out the trained reserve, so as to be ready for any consequences that might result from such a course.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 568.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 28.)

(No. 320. Extender.)
Athens, October 21, 1880.

My Lord,

THE King opened this morning the Second Session of the fifth Parliament by a speech, copy and translation of which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

The Queen and the whole diplomatic body assisted by invitation at the ceremony.

In his speech His Majesty said that the duties imposed upon him were especially serious at this moment, but the spirit shown by the people gave him a secure ground of action; the relations with all foreign Powers were friendly, and he took the opportunity of expressing his gratitude to the States which he had lately visited, whose decision in the late Conference had adjudicated a new frontier, which extends "our national regeneration to members of the Hellenic race who had formerly struggled for the same end."

The Powers who signed the arbitration decision are occupied in executing it, and, the execution being certain, "the necessity is imposed upon us of action, the regulation of which is to be your care." Measures had been taken in the absence of the Chamber which were necessary, and it was expected would be ratified.

The decree for mobilizing the army would be submitted to the Chamber for ratification. The mobilization was a necessary obligation alike towards the Powers and towards Hellenism.

The obligations incurred by the country were heavy, as the army has to remain with the colours until the new order of things is established in the country adjudicated to Greece, and finally His Majesty expressed his unshaken resolution to carry the mobilization to its entire fulfilment, and in consequence the necessary measures would be submitted to the House.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 569.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 28, 10 A.M.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 27, 1880, 9 P.M.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs assured me to-day in the strongest terms that all will go right at Dulcigno. Storms having interrupted telegraphic communication, they have no news from Scutari. Dervish Pasha goes to strengthen Riza Pasha's hands, not to replace him.

Riza Pasha might possibly be a little too soft. I reminded Minister that Dulcigno, according to latest promises, should have been delivered yesterday. Some additional troops have been dispatched to reinforce Riza Pasha from Volo and Prevesa.

No. 570.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 28, 8 A.M.)

(No. 336.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 27, 1880, 11·45 P.M.

YOUR telegram of 25th, No. 718.

I would suggest that proposed telegram should include reference to Porte having itself raised the question of Public Debt in the note of the 3rd October. Perhaps, however, it might be simpler to authorize Ambassadors here to address a communication to the Porte, as you suggest, when I might propose to my colleagues to make the reference I have indicated above.

You must expect the Porte to make difficulties.

No. 571.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received October 28, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 144.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October 28, 1880, 10 A.M.*

MONTENEGRIN Commander-in-chief has this morning been informed by Riza Pasha, from Scutari, that the measures he has taken for securing pacific cession of Dulcigno have not yet had a result; he is therefore unable to be at Konia to-day, but he hopes to be shortly able to announce his readiness to meet the Montenegrin Commander-in-chief at the appointed place to arrange technical details of cession.

Mr. Blunt's announcement of coming of Dervish Pasha ought not to be considered of any importance, unless said Pasha has imperative commands from Sultan to make the Albanians understand the surrender will be carried out at all hazards, for the present affair does not depend on this or that Pasha, but upon His Imperial Highness' orders.

The last two movements apparently merely tend to continue Turkish system of delay.

(Sent to Ambassador and Admiral.)

No. 572.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 718. Most Confidential.)
Sir, *Walmer Castle, October 28, 1880.*

I TOOK advantage of a visit which the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires made to me to ask whether he could give me any answer to an inquiry which I had requested your Excellency to make as to the course which, in the opinion of the Austrian Government, it would be expedient to take if the Porte failed to fulfil its engagement to surrender Dulcigno to the Montenegrins.

M. Hengelmüller replied that he believed Baron Haymerle's view to be that such conduct on the part of the Porte would constitute an event of such gravity that for the present he preferred not to consider the contingency, but that the Austrian Government were using the strongest pressure at Constantinople to urge upon the Turkish Government the necessity of acting up to its engagements without delay.

I then asked M. Hengelmüller whether he knew the views of his Government as to the step which should next be taken in case the transfer of Dulcigno were satisfactorily accomplished. I said that Her Majesty's Government were not prepared to alter their policy, and drop the other questions which called for settlement, in consequence of the difficulties which the Porte had made in regard to the Montenegrin frontier. We recognized the difficulty of Austria's position, we were anxious to consult her, to maintain the European concert, to keep as long as possible to the method of persuasion and diplomatic representation, and not to hurry a resort to measures of coercion.

At the same time, if there were any appearance of want of cordial co-operation among the Powers, and a firm front was not maintained by all, it seemed to me that we should be placed in the alternative either of abandoning our policy, or of taking a course which might produce a state of things which Austria is most inclined to deprecate.

M. Hengelmüller said the Austrian Government were equally anxious with us to maintain united action, and that he believed Baron Haymerle's wish was that we should propose whatever course seemed to us most advisable, that the Austrian Government would give such proposals their best consideration.

I remarked that what he had just said to me as to Baron Haymerle's not considering it necessary to entertain the idea of a failure to surrender Dulcigno, seemed to me to render it the more urgent to consider our future course. I understood that both Baron Haymerle and Prince Bismarck were disposed to believe in the success of continued diplomatic pressure. Whether or not their view were correct, it seemed clear that such pressure, to be effectual, should be promptly exercised.

M. Hengelmüller asked in what order I thought the several questions should be taken.

I replied that the Greek question could not be neglected, that the disposition shown by the Government and the population rendered the matter more urgent, and that an attempt on the part of the Greeks to take the matter into their own hands by an attack upon Turkey, would probably be the signal for a movement in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia reaching into Macedonia, while it would be impossible to press moderation upon Greece, unless well-grounded assurance could be given to her that she would not be abandoned by the other Powers.

M. Hengelmüller pointed out that Baron Haymerle had spoken favourably of the Greek cause in his speech to the Delegations. I said that I had observed it with pleasure, as also the strong opinion he had given with regard to the advantages of the concert of the Powers. He added confidentially that Austrian policy was in favour of the extension of Greek influence as a barrier to Slav aggression. I answered that for that very reason I thought we had more right to look to Austria for hearty co-operation, than to Russia, upon this question.

I went on to say that there seemed to lurk in the mind of the Austrian Government an impression that Her Majesty's Government are favourable to ambitious views on the part of Russia; that nothing could be more absolutely without truth as regarded either Mr. Gladstone or myself; that we wished to be on friendly terms with Russia as with other Powers; that we were glad to get Russian support for objects which we thought in themselves desirable; but that one of the reasons for which we placed confidence in the concert of Europe was that it was the most effectual means of checking selfish ambitions, and that it certainly would not be consistent with the policy of Austria to lag so much behind as to force us into any closer alliance with Russia than we ourselves thought desirable.

I then said that there was another question which the Porte had itself raised—that of the Turkish debt. The subject had been mentioned in a passage of the Porte's note of the 3rd instant. To this we had returned no reply, but the Porte had proceeded to act upon its announced intention and had addressed itself to the bondholders. I had mentioned the matter to the Italian Ambassador, and I noticed a report in the newspapers which made it seem possible, though I rather doubted it, that the Italian Government had already taken action on the subject. The question offered some advantages as being one which probably a good many Turks, as well as foreigners, would be glad to see taken in hand, and it admitted of being treated separately from the other subjects of discussion between Turkey and the Powers.

I said I was expecting further information on the subject from Mr. Goschen.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 573.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 1423 A. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, October 28, 1880.*

IT would be desirable that your Excellency should inquire of the French Government what their views are as to the instructions to be given to the Commanders of the combined fleet, in case the cession of Dulcigno is accomplished.

It would not be desirable that the several squadrons should be kept together. On the other hand, their formal and final separation would have a bad political effect, and would not be in accordance with the assurance given by the Powers to the French Government in July last, that they would be ready to act for the settlement of the Greek Frontier question in the same manner as for Montenegro. The best plan would seem to be that the several Admirals should be instructed to take separate cruizes, with prearranged places of call for orders in case of the necessity arising.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 574.

Captain Sale, R.E., to Earl Granville.—(*Received October 29.*)

(No. 80. Political.) "*Alexandra,*" *October* 25, 1880.

My Lord,

THE following is a summary of the negotiations which have taken place between the Turkish and Montenegrin Delegates appointed for framing a Convention for the cession of Dulcigno.

The Delegates having met at Rjeka on the 17th instant, the Turkish Delegate (Bedri Bey) proposed a project for the Convention (see Inclosure No. 1), which may be summarized as follows:—

1. That the Montenegrins should admit as their frontier, north of the lake, the actual *status quo*.
2. Concerning treatment of inhabitants of ceded districts.
3. Vacoufs and share of Ottoman debt to be dealt with by agreement between the two Governments.
4. Acts of Ottoman Tribunal in ceded districts to be recognized.
5. Vessels owned, or part owned, by Dulcignotes to be allowed to fly the Ottoman flag for a limited period.
6. Emigration of inhabitants from ceded districts to be forwarded.
7. Concerning disposal of arms and munitions found in depôts or in the hands of the inhabitants.

In addition to the above conditions, the Turkish Delegate demanded that, before the actual cession, documents should be exchanged between the Montenegrin and Turkish Delegates, the latter giving, at the same time, a promise that the cession should be made, and a declaration that it had been made, and the Montenegrin Delegate giving a sort of certificate or acknowledgment of possession three days before the actual cession.

The Montenegrin Government announced its readiness (see Inclosure No. 2) to accept Articles II, III, IV, VI, and VII of the above proposed Convention, but declined to accept Articles I and V, and so modified the proposed exchange of documents as to make it, on its part, the giving of an *ex post facto* receipt or acknowledgment of possession.

On these terms the Montenegrin Government prepared a counter-project summarized as follows (for full text see Inclosure No. 3):—

1. Engagement to respect rights of inhabitants.
2. A Turco-Montenegrin Convention to settle question of vacouf and share of Public Debt.
3. Recognition of acts of Ottoman Tribunals.
4. Facilitation of emigration from ceded districts.
5. Providing for mode of handing over arms and munitions found in ceded districts.
6. Providing that the *remise régulière* of the town and district of Dulcigno should take place within three days of signature of Convention.
7. That, as soon as the *remise régulière* had taken place, an acknowledgment of possession should be given by the Montenegrins to the Turks.

It is to be noticed that in this counter-project the Montenegrins introduce the expression *remise régulière* not used in the Turkish project.

On the Montenegrin counter-project being communicated to the Turkish Delegate, he at once said, with reference to its last two Articles (VII and VIII), that the Ottoman Government would make no *remise régulière*, but that they would simply withdraw from the district under certain conditions given below, and would not be responsible for anything which might take place after their withdrawal.

He (the Turkish Delegate) then presented a note giving the proposed technical details of the cession. This note (see Inclosure No. 4) may be summarized as follows:—

(*a.*) The town and district of Dulcigno to be evacuated three days after the signature of the Convention.

(*b.*) Montenegrin Commandant to have twenty-four hours' notice of evacuation.

(*c.*) Ottoman troops to retire in a certain specified direction, and the Montenegrin troops to enter three hours after the Turkish troops have retired.

(*d.*) The Montenegrin troops to enter the ceded district by what points they may choose, but are not to cross the new frontier in the Scutari direction.

Having handed in this proposal, the Turkish Delegate, declining to assent to the Montenegrin project for the Convention, left for Scutari.

A delay of some days ensued, owing to the alleged breaking down of the telegraphic communication between Scutari and Constantinople; but, on the 22nd October, the Turkish Delegate returned to Vir Bazaar, having changed the place of meeting to that locality.

The Turkish Delegate reopened negotiations by a disavowal of any authority to conclude a binding agreement, and stated that he only could negotiate tentatively, and as *pourparlers* for an ultimate Convention. On this basis he presented a second project conceived as follows (summary) (see Inclosure No. 5):—

1. Montenegrin troops for occupation to march within twelve days of signing Convention.
2. Montenegrin Commander to receive twenty-four hours' notice from the Turkish Commander before entry of Montenegrin troops.
3. The first five Articles of the Montenegrin counter-project to be embodied in the present Convention.
4. Provides that the Montenegrin troops are to enter the ceded district by a route which leaves the Mazura position on their right, and are to march on Dulcigno. When they have arrived within 1,000 metres from that town, the Turkish troops are to evacuate it and retire.
5. The town of Dulcigno having been occupied, the Montenegrins are at once to give a written acknowledgment of possession.
6. Disavows any responsibility on the part of Ottoman Government for subsequent events.
7. Permits a modification of Article IV of this Convention if the Turkish Commander sees fit.
8. Provides for a possible joint action of Montenegrin and Turkish troops in order to avoid effusion of blood, and also provides for the extension, in case of necessity, of the term of twelve days mentioned in the 1st Article.

The Montenegrin Government replied to this in the form of instructions to their Delegate (see Inclosure No. 6):—

1. That they must insist on the *remise régulière*.
2. Hope that the Turkish Delegate will revert to the original term of three days for the cession after signature of Convention.
3. Cannot accept the military detail set forth in Article IV of Turkish Delegate's second project, as the Mazura heights are fortified and occupied by Albanians, and command the proposed line of advance of the Montenegrin troops.
4. Though the Prince's Government never wished to hold the Porte responsible for anything which might happen in the ceded district after its actual occupation, yet it requires that the Porte shall conform to international obligations as to attacks from without and aggression by Albanians during or after delivery.
5. Whilst sharing the desire expressed in the Turkish Delegate's project (Article VIII) to avoid all chance of effusion of blood, the Prince's Government thinks that the best way to attain this end is to arrange all military details in advance.

The Turkish Delegate replied (see Inclosure No. 7), agreeing to reduce the term for the cession from twelve to eight days, but in other respects maintained the conditions of his project; concluding his response by saying that, if the Montenegrin Government did not accept his terms, he proposed to renew negotiations at Kunia or Antivari on the 28th instant (that is to say, five days afterwards).

The Montenegrin Government replied to this, accepting the term of eight days, but insisting that the Turkish Delegate should agree in principle to the several clauses of their instructions to their Delegate (see Inclosure No. 8) before proceeding to the military details. They also objected to the change of venue for future negotiations.

The Turkish Delegate gave no further reply than to notify his immediate departure to Scutari for further instructions, and to state that he would send an answer from that place (see Inclosure No. 9*).

The Turkish Delegate left accordingly on the night of the 23rd October for Scutari.

Lieutenant Caillard, R.E., was present throughout these negotiations (except on the first day), and I inclose the letters received from him reporting proceedings (see Inclosure No. 10†).

The action taken by the Turkish Delegate, the manner in which obviously impracticable conditions were inserted in the first project and subsequently withdrawn,

* Query, not sent home?

† Printed as Inclosure No. 9.

and the delays which have already ensued and which are still proposed, are significant enough, but I venture especially to draw your Lordship's attention to Article IV of the Turkish Delegate's second project for the Convention. The effect of this Article, if agreed to, would be to force the Montenegrins to advance on Dulcigno along a road commanded on either side by heights fortified, and probably occupied, by Albanians. It gives to me very strongly the impression that it was framed simply to draw the Montenegrins into collision with the Albanians under the most unfavourable circumstances possible.

I can throughout see no trace of any honest desire to conclude the Convention, and on the main question at issue, the granting the *remise régulière* demanded by Montenegro, the Turkish authorities are apparently just as far from coming to any agreement as they were six weeks ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 574.*

Draft Convention proposed by Bedri Bey.

ARTICLE I.

D'ADMETTRE comme ligne-frontière le *statu quo* proposé par la Sublime Porte au nord du Lac de Scutari.

ARTICLE II.

A respecter les droits, la vie, et l'honneur des habitants qui ne voudraient pas sortir avec les troupes Impériales Ottomanes des localités cédées au Monténégro; de même qu'à respecter les propriétés des habitants qui resteraient ou qui ne resteraient pas, se conformant à ce propos à ce qui a été établi par le Traité de Berlin.

ARTICLE III.

Que la question de l'évaluation des prix des terres, établissements appartenant au Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, et le mode d'administration des biens de l'Etat ou fondations pieuses (vacoufs) aussi bien que la juste part de la Dette Publique de l'Empire que le Monténégro doit supporter conformément au Traité de Berlin, ce dernier paragraphe devant faire l'objet d'une entente ultérieure entre la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement Monténégrin.

ARTICLE IV.

Le Gouvernement Monténégrin reconnaît valable tous les actes émanés des Tribunaux et autorités Ottomanes dans les localités cédées.

ARTICLE V.

Les bâtiments marchands appartenant aux habitants de Dulcigno, qui ne changeraient pas leur résidence hors de la principauté, auront le droit d'arborer le pavillon Ottoman pendant le délai de trois ans à partir de la date de l'échange de la Convention. Lorsque, pendant ces trois ans, le propriétaire d'un navire Dulcignote vendrait son navire à un sujet Ottoman, ou bien rendrait ce dernier son co-propriétaire, en ce cas les navires appartenant à cette catégorie porteront de tout temps le pavillon Ottoman.

ARTICLE VI.

Le Gouvernement Monténégrin facilitera le transport des habitants qui voudraient émigrer hors de la principauté.

ARTICLE VII.

Dans le cas où des armes et des munitions, se trouvant en dépôt dans le district de Dulcigno, et ceux restés entre les mains de la population, et qui ne pourraient pas être transportés jusqu'au jour de l'évacuation, le Gouvernement Monténégrin s'engage de la surveillance de tout ce matériel et il en fera la remise aux autorités Ottomanes à leur réclamation.

* Most of these Inclosures have already appeared in print elsewhere, but they are given here for the sake of convenience.

Le Commissaire Ottoman demande qu'outre la Convention réglant les détails de la cession du district de Dulcigno, le Délégué Monténégrin lui donne une déclaration spécifiant la prise de possession du district en question, déclaration qui sera annexée à la Convention et signé en même temps. Cette déclaration serait conçue dans les termes suivants:

"Le Soussigné, Délégué Ottoman, déclare avoir cédé au Gouvernement Monténégrin le district de Dulcigno, conformément à la ligne-frontière de la proposition Anglaise, que la cession aura lieu dans trois jours à partir de la date de la signature de notre Convention, et que les autorités civiles et militaires Impériales Ottomanes se seront retirées. En foi de quoi la présente déclaration a été signée et remise à M. le Délégué du Gouvernement Monténégrin."

Le Délégué Monténégrin remettrait au Délégué Ottoman une pièce ainsi conçue:—

"Le Soussigné, Délégué du Gouvernement Monténégrin, déclare avoir pris le district de Dulcigno, conformément à la ligne-frontière proposée par les Hautes Puissances et acceptée par la Sublime Porte. En foi de quoi la présente déclaration a été signée et remise à M. le Délégué Ottoman."

Inclosure 2 in No. 574.

M. Mutanovich to Bedri Bey.

Le 17 Octobre, 1880.

JE me suis empressé de communiquer à mon Gouvernement le Projet de Convention dont vous m'avez entretenu ce matin. En réponse à cette communication le Gouvernement Princier me charge de vous transmettre le Contre-Projet ci-inclus, qui, j'espère, répondra d'une manière satisfaisante au but que nous nous proposons d'atteindre.

Quant à ce qui concerne l'Article I^er^ du Projet que vous avez eu la bonté de me communiquer, le Gouvernement Princier étant informé par les Puissances qui ont traité et réglé la question entière des frontières Turco-Monténégrines que la Convention que nous sommes chargés de conclure ne doit se référer qu'aux modalités de la remise de la ville et du district de Dulcigno, il lui serait impossible, quant à présent, de prendre des engagements ayant trait à la frontière à l'est du Lac de Scutari.

Les questions formant l'objet des Articles II et III de votre Projet sont du reste résolues par le Traité de Berlin dont le Gouvernement Princier n'a jamais songé à l'écarter.

Vous remarquerez en outre, M. le Colonel, que l'Article V de votre Projet n'a pas trouvé place dans le Contre-Projet que j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre, et cela parce que le Monténégro, étant lié par les obligations de l'Article XXIX du Traité de Berlin, qui doit avoir même force et valeur pour le littoral de Dulcigno, n'aurait pu, sans enfreindre les dispositions de cet Article, s'engager à en accepter des modifications quelconques.

Veuillez, &c.

Inclosure 3 in No. 574.

Counter-Project proposed by M. Matanovich.

ARTICLE I.

LE Gouvernement Monténégrin s'engage de respecter les droits, la vie, et l'honneur des habitants qui ne voudraient pas sortir avec les troupes Impériales Ottomanes des localités cédées au Monténégro, de même qu'à respecter les propriétés des habitants qui resteraient ou qui ne resteraient pas, se conformant à ce propos à ce qui a été établi par le Traité de Berlin.

ARTICLE II.

Une Convention Spéciale Turco-Monténégrine réglera la question de l'évaluation au Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, et de la mode d'administration des biens de l'Etat, ou fondations pieuses ("vacoufs"), aussi bien que la juste part de la dette de l'Empire que le Monténégro doit supporter conformément au Traité de Berlin.

ARTICLE III.

Le Gouvernement Monténégrin reconnaît valables tous les actes émanés des Tribunaux et des autorités Ottomanes dans les localités cédées.

ARTICLE IV.

Le Gouvernement Monténégrin facilitera le transport des habitants qui voudraient émigrer en dehors de la principauté.

ARTICLE V.

Les armes et les munitions se trouvant dans le district de Dulcigno, et celles restées entre les mains de la population, appartenant au Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, qui ne pourraient pas être transportées jusqu'au jour de la remise, seront mises en dépôt et confiées à la garde d'un officier Ottoman, avec une escouade de soldats suffisante pour garder ce matériel.

ARTICLE VI.

La remise régulière de la ville et du district de Dulcigno doit avoir lieu trois fois vingt-quatre heures après la signature de la présente Convention, et s'effectuera de la manière suivante. (Suivent les détails techniques de la remise.)

ARTICLE VII.

La remise régulière de la ville et du district de Dulcigno accomplie, une déclaration de prise de possession sera délivrée par le Commandant-en-chef Monténégrin au Commandant-en-chef de la Division de Scutari-d'Albanie.

Inclosure 4 in No. 574.

Reply of Bedri Bey to the Montenegrin Counter-Project.

(*a.*) Le district de Dulcigno sera évacué par les troupes et les autorités civiles Ottomanes trois jours après la signature des Délégués réunis à Rjeka.

(*b.*) Le Commandant Monténégrin chargé de la prise de possession sera informé un jour avant de l'heure où les troupes Ottomanes devraient se retirer.

(*c.*) Les troupes Impériales Ottomanes se trouvant à Dulcigno se retireront vers St. Nicolo dès qu'elles auront reçu l'ordre de l'évacuation dans le terme de trois jours. Les troupes Monténégrines entreront dans le dit district trois heures après que les troupes Turques se seraient retirées.

(*d.*) Les troupes Monténégrines chargées de l'occupation du district de Dulcigno y entreront à l'heure précédemment fixée par un ou plusieurs points qu'elles choisiront sans toutefois franchir la nouvelle frontière du côté de Scutari.

(*e.*) Le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman ne sera point responsable de ce qui pourrait arriver après l'heure de la retraite de ses troupes.

Inclosure 5 in No. 574.

Draft Convention presented by Bedri Bey, October 22, 1880.

ARTICLE I.

LES troupes Monténégrines chargées de l'occupation de Dulcigno se mettront en marche pendant les douze jours qui suivront la signature de la Convention.

ARTICLE II.

Le Commandant Monténégrin chargé de l'occupation sera informé de l'heure de l'entrée de ses troupes dans le dit district vingt-quatre heures avant par le Commandant des troupes Impériales Ottomanes.

ARTICLE III.

Les cinq premiers Articles contenus dans le Contre-Projet du Délégué Monténégrin seront portés dans la Convention.

ARTICLE IV.

Comme à Majoura il n'existent pas de troupes Ottomanes, les troupes Monténégrines entreront dans le district de Dulcigno par Veli Gorana, Gorana, et de là elles se dirigeront vers la ville. A leur approche, les troupes Ottomanes, se trouvant à St. Nicolas et dans d'autres points, se retireront également à l'approche des troupes Monténégrines pour se retirer derrière la nouvelle frontière.

ARTICLE V.

L'occupation de la ville accomplie, le Commandant Monténégrin livrera immédiatement au Commandant des troupes Ottomanes une déclaration spécifiant l'occupation.

ARTICLE VI.

Le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman ne sera pas responsable de ce qui pourrait arriver dans le district susdit après l'évacuation par ses troupes.

ARTICLE VII.

L'Article IV de la Convention pourra être modifié sur la demande du Commandant Ottoman, dans le cas que ce dernier y verrait la nécessité.

ARTICLE VIII.

Dans l'intérêt d'éviter toute effusion de sang, les troupes Ottomanes et Monténégrines pourront exécuter un mouvement combiné, résultant d'une entente préalable entre les Commandants Turco-Monténégrins. Ils pourront, en cas de nécessité, prolonger le terme fixé par l'Article I^er^ ci-dessus.

Fait en double à Vir Bazar ce jourd'hui le 21 Octobre, 1880.

Pour le Commandant-en-chef de la division militaire de Scutari.

Inclosure 6 in No. 574.

Instructions given by the Montenegrin Government on the 23rd October to their Delegate.

BIEN que les cinq Articles de notre Contre-Projet étaient acceptés par votre collègue Ottoman, nous ne pouvons admettre, quant aux détails techniques, la Convention telle qu'elle vous est proposée par M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Bedri Bey.

Veuillez donc lui déclarer—

1. Que nous insistons à ce que la ville et le district de Dulcigno nous soient pacifiquement et régulièrement remises.

2. Que nous aimons à espérer que le Délégué Ottoman maintiendra sa première proposition faite à Rjeka de livrer le district et la ville dans le terme de trois jours à partir de la signature de la Convention.

3. Que les dispositions proposées par l'Article IV du second Projet de M. Bedri Bey sont militairement inacceptables. Le chemin conduisant à Dulcigno passe par les hauteurs de la Majura, fortifiées et occupées présentement par les Albanais, qui pourraient compromettre la remise pacifique si les troupes Monténégrins étaient obligées de passer exclusivement par le chemin de détour proposé par le Délégué Ottoman. Nous demandons donc que cette position soit préalablement occupée par les Nizams, pour nous être remise régulièrement. Il va sans dire que nous demandons aussi que le même procédé fût adopté non-seulement pour ce point et la ville de Dulcigno, mais en général pour tout point qui serait occupé par les Albanais.

4. Que nous n'avons jamais pensé rendre la Sublime Porte responsable de ce qui pourrait se passer dans le district, parmi la population indigène, après notre prise de possession, mais que, d'un autre côté, la Porte, se conformant à ses obligations internationales, sera responsable de tout acte de ses ressortissants, tendant à troubler l'ordre et à menacer la sécurité dans nos nouvelles possessions, et de tout acte d'agression pendant l'opération de la remise et après l'occupation.

5. Que, abondant dans l'idée exprimée dans l'Article 8 du Projet de M. Bedri Bey, que toute effusion de sang doit être évitée, nous trouvons que ce résultat ne peut être atteint qu'en fixant dès à présent tous les détails relatifs à l'opération de la remise, sans laisser rien à l'imprévu.

Il est surtout nécessaire d'éviter les pourparlers ultérieurs sur les lieux, et au moment de l'action, mais en tout cas, aucun délai ne devrait être admis, en dehors de celui qui sera stipulé dans la Convention.

Après l'acceptation des cinq points, en principe, qui précèdent, les Délégués pourraient procéder à l'élaboration des détails techniques définitifs de la remise.

Inclosure 7 in No. 574.

Reply of Bedri Bey to the Instructions given by the Montenegrin Government to their Delegate on the 23rd October.

IL n'y a pas à douter qu'en vue des circonstances actuelles les mesures à prendre pour la cession pacifique de Dulcigno contenues dans mon Projet d'hier (le 22 Octobre) répondent complètement au bon vouloir dont le Gouvernement Ottoman est animé. L'intention du Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman, et les mesures prises par le Commandant-en-chef de la Division de Scutari, tendent, à n'en pas douter, à faire occuper le dit district par les troupes Monténégrines, sans inconvénient. Je suis d'avis que l'occupation pacifique ne pourrait se faire à moins du terme fixé par l'Article I^er^ de mon Projet d'hier.

Il serait impossible de diminuer ce terme au-dessous de huit jours, terme que le Gouvernement Monténégrin ne saurait, je l'espère, trouver inacceptable.

Les détails contenus dans l'Article IV de mon Projet, répondent complètement aux moyens pacifiques par lesquels la cession aurait lieu. Néanmoins ces détails pourraient subir des modifications, ainsi qu'il est dit dans l'Article VII du Projet d'hier. Il ne faut pas, en outre, oublier que, quand même les troupes Ottomanes n'occuperaient pas les hauteurs de Mazura pendant l'action, nos troupes tâcheront à assurer la marche des troupes Monténégrines dans la direction indiquée dans l'Article IV de mon Projet d'hier.

Le Gouvernement Ottoman, ne permettant pas que ses ressortissants troublent l'ordre et la tranquillité publique, pendant et après l'évacuation, le second alinéa de l'Article IV de votre Projet du 23 Octobre ne saurait trouver place.

Les circonstances du dit district vous étant connues, il serait impossible de préciser dès à présent les détails de la marche des troupes et le mode de l'occupation; car la probabilité de l'effusion de sang, prévenue par l'Article VIII de mon Projet, ne saurait être exclue. Les détails techniques pourront être précisés, après les résultats des mesures adoptées par le Commandant Militaire de la Division de Scutari pour la cession du dit district par des moyens pacifiques, dans quelques jours.

C'est pourquoi je me vois obligé à insister pour votre adhésion aux Articles VII et VIII de mon Projet d'hier, et en cas de refus de votre part, je propose que la Convention et les détails techniques seront faits à Rounia ou Antivari le 28 de ce mois.

Inclosure 8 in No. 574.

Reply of the Montenegrin Delegate to the Note presented by Bedri Bey on the 23rd October.

LE Délégué Monténégrin ayant pris connaissance de la note qui lui a été remise ce jourd'hui par son collègue Ottoman, a l'honneur de lui faire observer ce qui suit:

Le terme de huit jour indiqué dans sa note d'hier ne saurait être une difficulté si la remise se fait d'une manière régulière et pacifique. Les appréhensions de plus en plus accentuées du Délégué Ottoman au sujet d'une effusion de sang probable lors de l'occupation du district et de la ville de Dulcigno par les troupes Monténégrines, devraient disparaître, ce me semble, du moment qu'il s'agit d'une remise régulière.

Quant à ce qui concerne l'Article 3 des instructions du Délégué Monténégrin, communiquées hier en copie à son collègue Ottoman, le Soussigné ne peut que maintenir les points de vue, ainsi que le mode de procédé, qui y sont indiqués, surtout en vue des appréhensions exprimées par le Délégué Ottoman au sujet de l'effusion de sang.

Le Délégué Ottoman rejette le second alinéa de l'Article 4 des instructions de son collègue Monténégrin comme étant une conséquence naturelle des obligations que les Etats se doivent mutuellement. Cependant le Gouvernement Princier, sur la proposition du Délégué Ottoman, n'a pas hésité à insérer dans la Convention à signer,

des déclarations figurant dans le Traité de Berlin, et c'est au même titre qu'il demande à la Sublime Porte de ne pas se refuser à faire la délibération mentionnée dans l'alinéa de l'Article précité.

En conséquence de ce qui précède, le Délégué Monténégrin insiste à demander l'adhésion en principe de son collègue Ottoman aux bases indiquées dans ses instructions, et se déclare prêt à entrer, après acceptation, immédiatement avec lui en pourparlers pour l'élaboration des détails techniques de la remise.

Quant à la proposition faite par le Délégué Ottoman de transférer pour une troisième fois le siège des négociations à Rounia ou Antivari, et ceci après un délai considérable de cinq jours, le Délégué Monténégrin fait observer qu'il ne peut pas s'expliquer ce délai ni le déplacement de ce siège.

Inclosure 9 in No. 574.

Lieutenant Caillard, R.E., to Captain Sale, R.E.

Rieka, October 24, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward you herewith copies of the official documents which passed between the Montenegrin and Ottoman Delegates during the recent negotiations held at Vir Bazar and interrupted yesterday.

I am of opinion that these negotiations have been carried on, on the Montenegrin side, in a spirit of conciliation, and desire to bring matters to a speedy close, a spirit which is shown in their acceptance of the delay of eight days for the handing over of the town and district of Dulcigno.

The condition which they then require, that the delivery should be effected in a regular and peaceable manner, appears to be no more than they have a right to ask.

I regret that I am unable to entertain the same opinion of the conduct of the Turks, as shown by their Delegate during the negotiations. It appears to me that these were taken up by them with the sole object of gaining delay.

Before proceeding to explain the grounds on which I have formed this opinion, I would venture to observe that the term "cession par des moyens pacifiques" (occurring in the answer of the Sublime Porte of the 29th September / 11th October to the Ambassadors' note) is a somewhat unfortunate one. It is in fact on this that the Turks are at present basing most of their present conduct.

The Montenegrin Government insists upon having the district handed over ("remis") in a regular and peaceable manner; and, in order that this may be effected, requires that the Turkish troops should occupy all the most important points in the district (especially those at present held by the Albanians), to retire only when the Montenegrin troops march into them.

The Turks, on the other hand, distinctly refuse to do this. Such an idea, the Ottoman Delegate declares, is absolutely not included in the expression "cession par des moyens pacifiques." And it is by the elasticity which the Ottoman Delegate has given to this term, that he has found reasons for obtaining some of the delay for which I believe him to be negotiating.

In my telegram of the 23rd instant, I informed you of the answer which he gave to my inquiry as to his reason for having extended the term of three days, which he had at first demanded, to one of twelve. It was to the effect that he had changed his appreciation of the meaning of "cession par des moyens pacifiques."

He made his first proposals under the impression that the peaceable means applied only to the relations between the Turks and Albanians. He required three days to move away stores, &c., and asked for three hours more in order that the Turkish troops might be well out of the way before the Montenegrins advanced, in case any conflict should take place between the latter and the Albanians. Finding, however, he said, that the Montenegrins did not accept this as a cession by peaceable means, he requires a term of twelve days, or perhaps more, in order that the recalcitrant Albanians may be peaceably forced not to oppose the Montenegrin occupation.

It is quite probable that, by the time that the next negotiations take place, he may have discovered a new meaning, which will require a fresh delay, and so on, unless the word "remise" be substituted for "cession," or unless the Powers explain explicitly what they understand by "cession par des moyens pacifiques."

In my telegram of the 22nd October, I ventured to point out to you the impracticable way in which the Ottoman Delegate refused to modify the most unac-

ceptable points in his proposal, and the evident way in which he pointed to further delay by mentioning a second Convention.

I remarked to him, also, that Article IV would most certainly be inacceptable to the Montenegrins from a military point of view, as Mazura, at present in the hands of the Albanians, is the key of the position.

This he subsequently acknowledged (as I informed you in my telegram of the 23rd instant), but declared that the Turkish troops would not expose themselves to the risk of having to fire on the Albanians by occupying it, in order to effect its peaceable cession to Montenegro; and, moreover, that he does not see the necessity for the Turkish troops to move out of their present positions, in order to occupy any other points for the purpose of handing them over to Montenegro.

Again, in the case (which actually happened) that the Montenegrin Government should accept the delay of eight days (which I mentioned to you in my telegram of the 22nd October), and should thus deprive the Ottoman Delegate of one excuse for interrupting the negotiations, he was ready with another in his "Projet de Convention," Articles VII and VIII, as is shown in his answer to the instructions given by the Montenegrin Government to their Delegate on the 23rd October (Inclosure No. 4).

The whole of that answer, indeed, seems to me to be conceived in a very uncompromising spirit, and to be a sufficient proof that the negotiations are not being carried on in good faith on the Turkish side.

When, in consequence of a telegram I had received from Mr. Kirby Green, I informed the Ottoman Delegate that the Porte had given official assurances to the Ambassadors that Dulcigno should be handed over in six or seven days at the latest, he expressed his surprise that the Porte should fix a date, when it was quite impossible for Riza Pasha, who is on the spot, to do so.

I frequently pointed out to the Ottoman Delegate the bad effect his impracticable demands and method of negotiating would produce on the Governments, but in every instance he answered that he was acting under instructions.

In conclusion, I would submit that it might be well could the Montenegrin Delegate have fuller powers. Considerable delay is caused by his having to telegraph on every point for instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) V. H. P. CAILLARD.

No. 575.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 29, 8 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Salonica, October* 28, 1880, 9 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 25th instant, Dervish Pasha went to Volo in the dispatch-boat "Stambul" to superintend embarkation of three complete battalions of infantry aboard a Government transport called the "Medjidieh." After effecting this object, he sailed for the Adriatic yesterday morning with the transport, and I have been informed by [? good] authority that he will touch at Prevesa for another battalion, and then proceed to occupy Dulcigno for the purpose of surrendering it to the Montenegrins.

He has taken with him the sum of 6,000*l.* in gold, and the four battalions under his command belong to the Imperial Guard recruited in Asia Minor.

My informant assures me that the Pasha has orders from the Sultan to do his best to effect the peaceful surrender of Dulcigno.

No. 576.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 29, 12·15 A.M.)

(No. 49. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October* 28, 1880, 2·30 P.M.

IN answer to my inquiry, Prime Minister told me to-day that the Government had received no official indications of the course the Powers were likely to pursue in order to obtain for Greece the new frontier.

He said that Greece founded her hopes upon assistance of the Powers to attain realization of Berlin Award; especially she relied on Her Majesty's Government.

Greece had made great, and would have to make greater, sacrifices to put on foot a large army, and if nothing was done [two groups wrong] towards the cession of the provinces, Greece would act alone; the country would insist on this, and refusal on the part of King and Government to do what public opinion imperatively demanded would compromise to a dangerous extent position of the King.

No. 577.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 28, 11 P.M.)

(No. 50. Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Athens, October* 28, 1880, 3·45 P.M.

KING told me at my first audience since his return that he should do all in his power to hasten the military preparations now making here.

It appeared to him impossible that the Powers should not act in such way as to induce Turkey to concede new frontier, and Greece would undertake a pledge to the Powers to be ready to take their share in the measures that might be required.

His Majesty gave me clearly to understand that Greece, if she did not obtain what she considered had been conceded to her, would take the initiative in endeavouring to obtain it.

No. 578.

*Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.**

(No. 872.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, October* 29, 1880, 6 P.M.

WITH reference to Mr. Goschen's telegram No. 336 of the 27th, repeated to you to-day, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it will be desirable that the Ambassadors should be authorized to consult how and when, as soon as the Dulcigno matter is settled, this question had best be raised.

No. 579.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 29, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 38.)
(Telegraphic.) *Baosich, October* 29, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

I HAVE sent Lieutenant Lowe to Antivari, in order to give early notice in case there should be any signs of the cession of Dulcigno; there are none at present.

No. 580.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 30.)

(No. 340.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 30, 1880.

RUSSIAN Ambassador and Italian Ambassador have news from Scutari stating that Albanian insurgents are flocking in large numbers to Dulcigno. I presume that nothing can be done now till Dervish Pasha arrives.

No. 581.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 30, 3·20 P.M.)

(No. 118.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, October* 30, 1880, 1·45 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 613.

Personally, French Minister for Foreign Affairs entirely agrees that it would be advisable that the Ambassadors should be authorized to consult how and when, as soon

* Also to Lord Lyons (No. 613), Sir A. Paget (No. 798), Sir J. Walsham (No. 755), and Sir H. Elliot (No. 802.)

as the Dulcigno affair is settled, to raise question of establishing International Financial Commission contemplated by Protocol No. 18.

He reserves his official answer until he has consulted his colleagues.

No. 582.

Sir J. Walsham to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 30, 6·20 P.M.)

(No. 112.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, October* 30, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's No. 755.

Minister for Foreign Affairs will consult Prince Bismarck as to authorization which Her Majesty's Government consider should be given to the Ambassadors at Constantinople to consult how and when, as soon as Dulcigno matter is settled, the question respecting convocation of Finance Commission, which is contemplated in Protocol No. 18 of the Berlin Congress, had best be raised.

No. 583.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 30, 7·20 P.M.)

(No. 146.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, October* 30, 1880, 4 P.M.

WITH reference to military movement of Turks to effect surrender of ceded district, Prince tells me that Montenegrin Commander-in-chief, who returned yesterday to the camp near Antivari, will have, by 5th, reassembled 5,000 men, and can increase them considerably at very short notice.

I beg to recall to notice, with reference to the present agitation at Scutari, that nearly all the Mahommedan members of the General Committee of that town are Turkish functionaries, and therefore under the control of the Porte, and that the Roman Catholic members are indifferent as to the surrender of Dulcigno.

(Sent to Ambassador and Admiral.)

No. 584.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 558.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1880.

I HAVE read your despatch No. 465 of the 11th instant, stating that, before the receipt of my note of the 6th instant, forwarding an amended copy of Colonel Wilson's Report, you had already sent in to the Russian Government a note embodying the main part of his original Report.

I accordingly approve your proposal to leave the matter alone, although you may take an opportunity of giving Baron Jomini a copy of the inclosure relating to the refugees of Karamanja, which was appended to the revised Report.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 585.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 559.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, October* 30, 1880.

I APPROVE the note which you addressed to Baron Jomini inviting the Russian Government to join in remonstrating at Philippopoli against the abuses reported by Colonel Wilson, of which a copy was inclosed in your despatch No. 462 of the 8th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 586.

Vice-Consul Maling to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 31.)

(Telegraphic.) *Dardanelles, October* 31, 1880.

A Turkish transport, with torpedoes aboard, has arrived in the Dardanelles. Two redoubts to protect the rear of coast batteries have been commenced.

No. 587.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received October* 31.)

(No. 341.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1880.

YOUR telegram No. 725.

As regards energetic pressure on Porte, recommended by Italian Government, I consider it useless to take any further steps at this moment, unless some distinct consequences are to follow non-compliance. In any case it would be best to [group omitted; ? await] result of Dervish Pasha's action.

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